

PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS: fifty-five years ago on February 16, 1918, a free and independent Lithuania National Republic was proclaimed by the will of the Lithuania people; and
- WHEREAS: after such Declaration of Independence, Lithuania was occupied by Russian military forces, being denied such independence, and being denied such basic freedoms which lingered in their hearts; and
- WHEREAS: their continuing struggle for freedom and independence is typical of the struggle of all freedom-loving peoples everywhere and strongly emphasizes for us - free Americans - that the price of freedom is eternal vigilance against continuous encroachments against it both at home and abroad; and
- WHEREAS: Americans have a traditional interest in the defence of freedom and human rights and sympathize with the aspirations of freedom-loving people wherever freedom is denied; and
- WHEREAS: Minnesotans of Lithuanian descent annually observe the anniversary of the Lithuanian Declaration of Independence, and are observing the 54th anniversary of it on February 16, 1973.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Wendell R. Anderson, Governor of the State of Minnesota do hereby proclaim Friday, February 16, 1973, as

LITHUANIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

in Minnesota and urge all citizens of our State to join with me in supporting the struggle of the Lithuanian people to regain their national freedom and a democratic system of government.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this seventh day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and seventy-three and of the State the one hundred fifteenth.

*Wendell R. Anderson*  
GOVERNOR

*Arlen J. Erlahl*  
SECRETARY OF STATE

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
FILED

FEB 12 1973

*Arlen J. Erlahl*  
Secretary of State

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