



# Proclamation

WHEREAS: Ralph Bledsoe was one of the unsung heroes of World War II; and

WHEREAS: Ralph Bledsoe was a U. S. Army operations officer with the 787th Engineer Petroleum Distribution Co. in charge of pipe-line support to the front lines; and

WHEREAS: fuel was not getting to the front lines fast enough; and

WHEREAS: Ralph Bledsoe devised a method, through use of a series of centrifugal pumps, that increased the flow of fuel by 12,000 barrels a day between Cherbourg, France, and Mainz, Germany; and

WHEREAS: this was the first time in history that centrifugal pumps in a series had been used on such a large scale; and

WHEREAS: the ingenuity and expertise of Ralph Bledsoe was a critical factor in winning the fuel supply battle, and thus in helping to win the Battle for Europe; and

WHEREAS: a break-through in Army bureaucracy was finally achieved when, on September 8, 1973, Ralph Bledsoe was awarded the Legion of Merit, an honor recommended in 1945;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Wendell R. Anderson, Governor of the State of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Sunday, October 14, 1973 to be

RALPH BLEDSOE DAY

in Minnesota.

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 twelfth day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and seventy-three and of the State the one hundred and fifteenth.

*Wendell R. Anderson*

GOVERNOR

*Arlen J. Erdahl*

SECRETARY OF STATE

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
FILED

OCT 12 1973

*Arlen J. Erdahl*  
Secretary of State

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