

Proclamation

REAS: James "Itts" Williams was born in Grand Forks in 1927, enlisted in the Navy at the age of 16, was awarded the Purple Heart and then finished high school; and

REAS: he played football at the University of North Dakota and went on to be a punter for the Winnipeg Blue Bombers; and

REAS: by 1948, "Itts" returned to hockey and, as a player for the Grand Forks Amerks, made All-Tournament Team at the National Tournament in Toledo; and

REAS: in 1950, "Itts" Williams played hockey for the Crookston Pirates and won the National Amateur Hockey Championship; and

REAS: at the age of 24, he was invited to try out for the Olympics but had to forego that honor because of his job; and

REAS: the hockey scene in the East Grand Forks-Grand Forks area was illuminated for many years through the efforts of "Itts" Williams; and

REAS: "Itts" was a founder of the Blue Line Club in East Grand Forks and served as its first vice president; and

REAS: his dedication to youth hockey and his many contributions to the community have enriched the State of Minnesota; and

REAS: the man who paraphrased Herodotus must have had mail carriers like "Itts" Williams in mind when he penned, "Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these cowiers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds";

AND, THEREFORE, I, Wendell R. Anderson, Governor of the State of Minnesota do hereby proclaim Friday, March 26, 1976 to be

JAMES "ITTS" WILLIAMS DAY

in Minnesota, and join his wife, Phyllis, his daughter, Ann, his son, Sean, and his many friends in paying tribute to a man with a great heart and a great gift.

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 twenty-sixth day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred seventy-six and of the State the one hundred eighteenth.

STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FILED
MAR 26 1976

Wendell R. Anderson
Governor
Secretary of State

GOVERNOR

Jean Anderson Brown
SECRETARY OF STATE

#29367