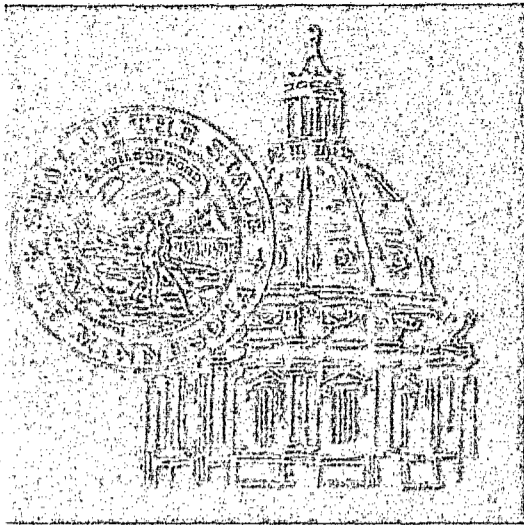


State of Minnesota



# Proclamation

- WHEREAS: Waino J. Kortesmaki has been involved in vocational education and in the Future Farmers of America since 1929 when he organized the first Minnesota FFA chapter in Esko, his home town; and
- WHEREAS: he was president of his local chapter in 1931, first student secretary of the Minnesota Association, one of the first three members in Minnesota to earn an American Farmer degree, and has been state FFA secretary since 1947; and
- WHEREAS: Kort has a flair for showmanship when it comes to publicity stunts for FFA: these efforts include installing a bull in a china shop to demonstrate that a properly trained bull will be gentle; organizing turkey trot races, and frog jumping and rooster crowing contests, not to mention dyeing chickens blue and gold and drinking the dye to prove it was harmless; and
- WHEREAS: Kort is a founder of D-Day, the day people in Minnesota agree to stop smoking. One year he arranged for a Brink's truck to deliver \$510,000 in cash to Wendell Anderson, then governor, to dramatize the amount of money that could be saved in one day if Minnesota's estimated 850,000 smokers gave up one pack of cigarettes; and
- WHEREAS: Kort's personalized license plate reads "FFA-WJK," a gift from 20 FFA chapters in District 8; and
- WHEREAS: Kort reads and writes Finnish and each year joins a merry group at the Capitol to be sure the Governor signs a proclamation designating March 16 as St. Urho's Day, the renowned patron saint of the Finnish people who saved the grape crop by driving the grasshoppers out of Finland with the now famous words, "Heinasirkka, heinasirkka, mene taalta hiiteen and
- WHEREAS: Kort's friends and colleagues and other admirers have set aside August 16 to honor him for 32 years of distinguished service in Minnesota's Vocational Education Department;
- NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rudy Perpich, Governor of the State of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Tuesday, August 16, 1977 to be

WAINO J. KORTESMAKI DAY

in Minnesota, and join those gathered for this occasion in wishing him good health and happiness in the years ahead, and continued success in guiding the destiny of FFA.

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
FILED  
AUG 5 - 1977  
*Jean Anderson Gram*  
Secretary of State

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 sixteenth day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred seventy-seven and of the State the one hundred nineteenth.

*Jean Anderson Gram*  
SECRETARY OF STATE

*Rudy Perpich*  
GOVERNOR