



Proclamation

WHEREAS: The week of June 16th through June 22nd is the period during which Midsummer is celebrated in Sweden; and

WHEREAS: Midsummer has always been one of the most popular of Sweden's festivals. It is celebrated at the height of the brilliant northern summer, at the time when nature is at her loveliest. Midsummer celebrations used to be particularly lively in the rural areas where large numbers of people from all walks of life assembled to enjoy themselves. In this way Midsummer is emphasized as the special festival of youth and happiness; and

WHEREAS: The central symbol is the maypole, a tall flower bedecked mast which is raised with great ceremony. Shortly after noon on Midsummer Eve day parents and children gather around the maypole for old fashioned ring dances, and later the dances become more modern and the young people take over the evening's celebration; and

WHEREAS: One of the most cherished memories of Midsummer in Sweden is from the Sixteenth century when the country was occupied by Denmark; on Midsummer Eve 1523 the national liberator Gustav Vasa, subsequently known as Gustavus I, entered Stockholm at the head of his liberation forces;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rudy Perpich, Governor of the State of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim the third week of June to be

S W E D E S W E E K

in Minnesota.

STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FILED
MAY 23 1986

Jan Anderson Howe
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 nineteenth day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and eighty-six, and of the State the one hundred twenty-eighth.

Rudy Perpich
GOVERNOR

Jan Anderson Howe

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