



## Proclamation

- WHEREAS: Odell Bjerkness is the executive director of Concordia Language Villages, a program which was started in 1961, out of the conviction that the time to learn another language is at an early age, and in a setting similar to the country in which that language is spoken; and
- WHEREAS: The Concordia Language Villages were featured by CBS News in July, 1987 as an example of one of the finest language programs in the country; and
- WHEREAS: The program takes place each summer at Minnesota lakeside locations where students from all over the country aged 7 to 18 attend summer programs in foreign languages, and actually become "villagers", going through customs when they arrive at camp, adopting a foreign name, giving up all American books, tapes and radios, exchanging dollars for foreign currency, staying in cabins named after foreign cities and trying to follow as many customs as possible of the language and culture they are studying; and
- WHEREAS: This summer a 10th language village, Mori-No-Ike, has opened in Giants Ridge, Biwabik, Minnesota, and this Japanese language instruction village offers its first session August 8-20, 1988; and
- WHEREAS: Odell Bjerkness recognized that Japan plays an important role in the world's economy and is one of the United State's primary trading partners, thus making Japanese a vital language and culture to know and understand; and
- WHEREAS: Due to Odell Bjerkness' insight students in Minnesota and throughout the country now have the opportunity to experience what life in Japan is like and to learn the language and customs of this country through singing Japanese songs, playing Japanese games, conversing in Japanese, eating Japanese food and more;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rudy Perpich, Governor of the State of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim August 22, 1988 to be

O D E L L B J E R K N E S S D A Y

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
FILED

SEP 27 1988

*Jean Anderson Grove*

Secretary of State # 5433

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 tenth day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and eighty-eight, and of the State the one hundred thirtieth.

*Rudy Perpich*  
G V E R N O R

*Jean Anderson Grove*  
SECRETARY OF STATE