



Proclamation

- WHEREAS: Sled dog teams were the principle means of wintertime transportation and communication used by Minnesota's original inhabitants, long before the advent of the first white explorers; and
- WHEREAS: Legislators from the northern districts of Minnesota traveled to the sessions of the Territorial Legislature by dogteam; and
- WHEREAS: The first sled dog race on record in the world took place in Minnesota in 1858; and
- WHEREAS: During the 1800's through the first years of this century mail was delivered along the north shore of Lake Superior and in other parts of the state in the winter by coureurs des bois and mail carriers using dog teams, preeminent among them being John Beargrease, the "intrepid Chippewa dog puncher"; and
- WHEREAS: In the first international sled dog race for an established purse, sponsored by the St. Paul Winter Carnival in 1917, teams from the United States and Canada ran a course from Winnipeg to St. Paul; and
- WHEREAS: Minnesota dogs and mushers continue to be at the forefront of winter sports and sled dog activity and accomplishment; and
- WHEREAS: In 1986 a team of mushers and dogs lead by Will Steger and Paul Schurcke of Minnesota became the first confirmed unsupported sled dog expedition to reach the North Pole; and
- WHEREAS: The largest and most famous long distance sled dog race outside Alaska, The John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon, commemorating the exploits of mail carrier John Beargrease, is run each year along Minnesota's North Shore, attracting competitors, media and fans from across North America and the world;
- NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rudy Perpich, Governor of the State of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim the second week of January to be

S L E D D O G H E R I T A G E W E E K

in Minnesota, in appreciation of the contributions of sled dogs and mushers to Minnesota's colorful history.

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-ninth day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and eighty-eight and of the State the one hundred thirtieth.

Jan Anderson Gagne
SECRETARY OF STATE

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Rudy Perpich
GOVERNOR STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FILED

JAN 27 1989

Jan Anderson Gagne
Secretary of State