

STATE OF MINNESOTA
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ST. PAUL

MEMORIAL DAY PROCLAMATION

In 1867, only two years after the last gun was fired in the War Between the States, the women of Columbus, Mississippi, in the heart of the devastated Southland, strewed flowers over the graves of the soldier dead, Confederate and Union alike. The North thrilled with the news. Francis Miles Finch penned the now famous lyric, "The Blue and the Grey," putting into immortal words the sentiment of a people reunited by a common sorrow. The union of the dead, resting together in the fields upon which they had fought, oblivious of the differences which had made them fight, effected a new union of the living.

In May of the following year, Adjutant General N. P. Chipman suggested to General John A. Logan, Commander-in-Chief of the newly organized Grand Army of the Republic, the appropriateness of strewing flowers on the graves of soldiers in all states at the same time. In response to the suggestion, General Logan issued an order designating May 30, 1868, said to be the date of the last discharge issued to a Civil War soldier, as a day of special observance for the soldier dead, "with the hope that it will be kept from year to year while a survivor of the War remains, to honor the memory of the departed."

Thus "Decoration Day" was inaugurated. Later, by legislation in various states, the name was changed to "Memorial Day" as more appropriate to a day set aside to commemorate the devotion of "those who are asleep in the nation's heart, entombed in the nation's love."

From the very beginning of her Statehood, Minnesota has always responded patriotically to the country's call in time of need. Governor Ramsey, in Washington at the time the report came that Fort Sumter had been fired upon, was the first to offer to President Lincoln troops to put down the Southern rebellion. Minnesota was then a pioneer state only three years old. Many of its people were recent immigrants from foreign soil. But of its total population of 162,000, nearly fourteen per cent., or 22,000 enlisted. In the Spanish-American war, 8,500 Minnesota boys volunteered for service. In the World War, less than ten years past, 122,000 men went forth to sustain the traditions of our Commonwealth. At Gettysburg and on many other southern fields, in Luzon, in France, and in cemeteries throughout this land, are stones marking Minnesota graves, upon which might fittingly be inscribed the deathless epitaph of Thermopylae: "Go, tell Sparta we lie here, having obeyed her word."

Now, therefore, I, Theodore Christianson, Governor of Minnesota, do proclaim Wednesday, May 30, 1928, as Memorial Day, and do request that it be observed by the people of this Commonwealth with appropriate exercises in honor and remembrance of the sacred dead.

3981

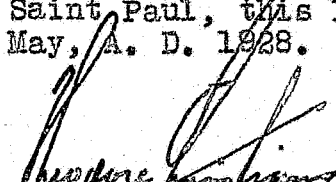
STATE OF MINNESOTA
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ST. PAUL

Let labor of all kinds be suspended; let business be set aside. Let memorial services be conducted in every community. Let graves bloom again with flowers emblematic of the nation's remembrance, and let flags fly as tokens of our pledge of loyalty to the Republic for which these heroes fought and died.

And let our thought be not only for the dead, but for the living as well. Let hospitals and homes where afflicted soldiers are cared for, be visited; that those who are suffering war's aftermath may know that the people do not forget.

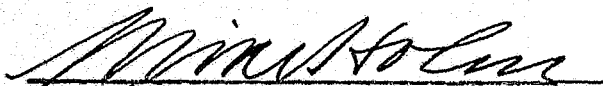
In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be hereto affixed at the Capitol, in the City of Saint Paul, this 16th day of May, A. D. 1928.

(Great Seal)



Governor of Minnesota.

Attest:



Secretary of State.

3981

3987

STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAY 16 1928

STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FILED
MAY 16 1928
W. H. Johnson
Secretary of State