

STATE OF MINNESOTA
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
SAINT PAUL



P R O C L A M A T I O N

With the approach of Memorial Day this year -- we are reminded that the occasion has gathered to itself an increased richness and breadth of meaning. It was originally observed in honor of soldiers killed in the Civil War but subsequently also in honor of those who fell in later conflicts. Within the past decade many citizens have come to feel that upon Memorial Day peace heroes should be honored as much or more than those who gave their lives in war.

Because Memorial Day may be over-shadowed by the holiday spirit, The Memorial Day Committee of the Memorial Extension Commission of New York urges that the seven days concluding on May 30th be dedicated to Memorial ceremonies of every kind and officially designated as "Memorial Week." This proposal has my hearty approval.

It is obvious that serious-minded people are intent upon making Memorial Day mean more than it ever has before in the Nation's history. As never before the Day should serve the cause of peace and it should honor the heroes of peace. This very year the American people are to spend more than a billion dollars for armaments. If there must be retrenchment in government expenditure let it not be at the expense of millions of helpless men and women still on relief. Let there be retrenchment in armament expenditures.

In a world already frustrated by war to the point of despair, what blasphemy it is to make our saints and heroes the men of war, the battleslain! Why dedicate each Memorial Day to the praise of war of crimsoned strife?

There is a better and a more needed way to fulfill the higher spirit and purpose of Memorial Day. This better observance is to honor the heroes of peace, such typical heroes as policemen, firemen, farmers, factory workers, women who have died in childbirth and others who have lost their lives in pursuing the monotonous, humdrum, peaceful but hazardous paths of duty.

8176

STATE OF MINNESOTA
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
SAINT PAUL



That the cause of peace may be served and the heroes of peace may be honored, even as have the heroes of war in the past, I, Elmer A. Benson, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby designate

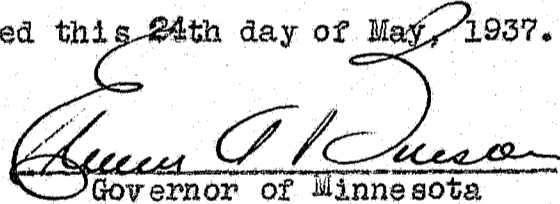
SUNDAY, May 30th, 1937

as

MEMORIAL DAY


Upon this day let us give thought and pay tribute to all of those who have undergone danger and given their lives in connection with service to their fellow-men. Let us take care that the graves of all persons who have spent their lives sacrificially for the welfare of their fellow-men and fellow-women are visited and kept green and vivid in memory by flowers, garlands and words fitly spoken. Above all upon this sacred day let us intone psalms of peace and enthrone high in our hearts the cause of peace that it may be served by memory and by high resolve.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State to be hereto affixed this 24th day of May, 1937.


Governor of Minnesota

8176

Attest:


Secretary of State

8176

STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FILED
MAY 26 1937

Wm. H. Johnson
Secretary of State