

WHEREAS; originally from southern China and Southeast Asia, specifically Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, and Myanmar, Hmong people are an ethnically and culturally diverse group of people, and Wisconsin is now home to the country's third-largest population of Hmong Americans; and

WHEREAS; during the Vietnam War, the Central Intelligence Agency and U.S. Armed Forces recruited, organized, and trained Hmong-Lao forces to combat the North Vietnamese Army and Pathet Lao forces; and

WHEREAS; thousands of Hmong-Lao people courageously fought alongside Americans throughout the Vietnam War and, facing harsh retribution from the Vietnamese and Lao governments following the war's end, many were ultimately forced to flee their home lands and resettle in communities throughout the United States, including in Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS; May 14, 1975, marks the day that the last of the Hmong-Lao soldiers and their families fled Laos for the Nam Phong refugee camp in Thailand, and in accordance with 2021 Wisconsin Act 31, May 14 of every year is designated as a day to thank Hmong-Lao veterans in Wisconsin for their service and sacrifice, recognize their accomplishments, and encourage schools to include their military service in discussions and curriculums surrounding the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS; the Wisconsin Lao Veterans of America (WLVA) has established chapters throughout the state to serve local communities and educate the public about the contributions of Hmong-Lao veterans during the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS; today, the state of Wisconsin joins the WLVA and all Wisconsinites in reflecting on the tremendous, and too often overlooked, heroism and sacrifice of Hmong-Lao veterans in the state;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim May 14, 2023, as

HMONG-LAO VETERANS DAY

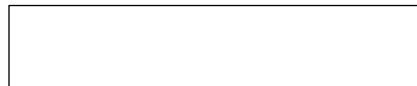
throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance
to all our state's residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 10th day of April 2023.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State