

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 homelands 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 today, the state thanks Hmong-Lao veterans in Wisconsin for their service and sacrifice, recognizes their accomplishments, and encourages schools to include their military service in discussions and curriculums surrounding the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS; today, the state of Wisconsin joins Wisconsinites in reflecting on the tremendous, and too often overlooked, heroism and sacrifice of Hmong-Lao veterans in the state and reaffirms its commitment to celebrating Hmong history and supporting the success of the state's dedicated Hmong-Lao veteran community and their families;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim May 14 2024 as

HMONG-LAO VETERANS DAY

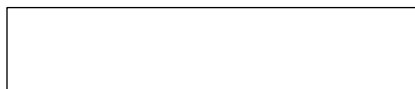
throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance
to all our state's residents.

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 3rd day of May 2024.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State