



## STATE of MINNESOTA

# Proclamation

- WHEREAS: General Robert E. Lee and the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant and the Union Army at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865, successfully ending the American Civil War after four bloody years, and;
- WHEREAS: The year 2015 marks the sesquicentennial of General Lee's surrender and the end of a conflict, which killed more than 600,000 soldiers; and
- WHEREAS: The United States Congress passed a bill in 1930 to memorialize the site, which led to the establishment of the Appomattox Court House National Historical Park; and
- WHEREAS: The State of Minnesota was represented by the First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry Battalion at General Lee's surrender to General Grant at Appomattox Court House; and
- WHEREAS: The First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry Battalion, made up of many veterans of the First Minnesota Regiment and the Second Minnesota Sharpshooters, had been serving their country gallantly since the beginning of the war; and
- WHEREAS: Minnesota was the first state to offer volunteer troops to serve in the Union Army; and during the war, both at home and on the battlefield, people mourned, made sacrifices and weighed every possibility and outcome until the Confederate surrender, marking the end of the war; and
- WHEREAS: In conjunction with the 150th anniversary event at Appomattox Court House, communities across the nation are invited to join in this commemoration by participating in ringing "Bells Across the Land: A Nation Remembers Appomattox;" and
- WHEREAS: The State of Minnesota will join in this commemoration by urging churches, temples, schools, city halls, public buildings, historic sites, and others to ring bells precisely at 2:15 p.m. on Thursday, April 9, 2015, for four minutes (each minute symbolic of a year of war).

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Thursday, April 9, 2015, as:

### MINNESOTA COMMEMORATION DAY OF THE END OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

in the state of Minnesota.



*Steve Pinnau*

SECRETARY OF STATE

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 25<sup>th</sup> day of March.

*Mark Dayton*

GOVERNOR