



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

- WHEREAS: Michael "Mike" Colalillo, the last living Medal of Honor recipient in Minnesota, died Friday, December 30, 2011, at eighty-six years of age at a nursing home in Duluth, Minnesota ; and
- WHEREAS: Mike Colalillo received the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military honor, for bravery in combat after killing or wounding twenty-five Germans during a fierce World War II battle near Untergriesheim, Germany on April 17, 1945, and for helping a seriously wounded comrade to safety; and
- WHEREAS: Mike Colalillo was presented with the Medal of Honor on December 18, 1945 by President Harry S. Truman. The citation highlighted his bravery and leadership, noting that, "inspired by his example, his comrades advanced in the face of savage enemy fire"; and
- WHEREAS: Mike Colalillo was humble despite his heroics. He has said that he never wanted to kill anyone, but just did what was necessary for his comrades and his country. His heroism is noted throughout the City of Duluth, where he is honored with 'Mike Colalillo Drive,' 'Mike Colalillo Park,' and with a bust at City Hall; and
- WHEREAS: After the war, Mike returned to Minnesota and worked as a laborer for an iron ore company and as a longshoreman. He married his wife, Lina, on November 16, 1945 in Duluth, where they made their home and raised their children; and
- WHEREAS: Mike Colalillo was a busy and active man. He was a member of the Medal of Honor Society, the Duluth Hall of Fame, the American Legion, the VFW, Disabled American Veterans, the Raleigh Breakfast Club, and the Italian-American Club. He also enjoyed fishing, Friday lunches with friends, traveling to Medal of Honor Conventions with Lina, and coaching youth hockey; and
- WHEREAS: Mike Colalillo was a great son, brother, husband, father, and grandfather. In his death, he has joined his wife, Lina; daughter, Joann; parents, Carlo and Victoria; brother, Patrick; and sisters, Carmella, Concetta, Nikki, and Mary. He will be lovingly remembered by his daughter, Michele (Roger); son, Al (Terry); grandsons, Mike and Nick; great-grandchildren, Michael, Daijia, and Dilin; brother, Albert; and sisters, Jennie and Grace; and
- WHEREAS: A celebration of Mike's life will be held on Saturday, January 7, 2012, at St. James Catholic Church in Duluth, followed by interment at Forest Hill Cemetery with full military honors; and
- WHEREAS: The State of Minnesota recognizes Mike Colalillo for his dedicated service to and heroism for his fellow citizens of Minnesota and the United States of America with its deepest gratitude, and all thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends, and all who knew him.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby order all U.S. flags and Minnesota flags be flown at half-staff at all state and federal buildings in the State of Minnesota, from sunrise until sunset on Saturday, January 7, 2012, in honor and remembrance of Michael Colalillo.



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 6th day of January in the year of our Lord two thousand and twelve, and of the State the one hundred and fifty-third.


GOVERNOR



SECRETARY OF STATE