STATE OF MINNESOTA

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

MARK DAYTON
GOVERNOR

Executive Order 11-15

Creating a Civil War Commemoration Task Force

I, Mark Dayton, Governor of the State of Minnesota, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and applicable statutes, do hereby issue this Executive Order:

Whereas, the American Civil War began with the bombardment of Fort Sumter at Charleston, South Carolina, on the morning of April 12, 1861; and

Whereas, on April 14, 1861, Governor Alexander Ramsey offered to President Abraham Lincoln the services of the First Minnesota Volunteer Regiment to defend the Union; and

Whereas, on July 2, 1863, at the Battle of Gettysburg, the First Minnesota Volunteers led the charge that defended Cemetery Ridge for the Federal forces, sustaining casualties of 215 men killed or wounded, out of a total of 262, a casualty rate of 82 percent; and

Whereas, on the next day, July 3, 1863, the 47 who remained helped repulse Pickett's Charge, losing 17 more men killed or wounded and helping to turn the tide of the battle and the war; and

Whereas, the Civil War ended on April 9, 1865, with the surrender of General Robert E. Lee to General Ulysses S. Grant at the village of Appomattox Courthouse, Virginia; and

Whereas, the intervening years have dimmed the memory but not diminished the valor of those Minnesotans who fought so bravely to defend the Union; and

Whereas, April 12, 2011, is the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War; and

Whereas, it is fitting and proper that Minnesotans learn about and commemorate the Civil War and the role of Minnesotans in it;

Now, Therefore, I hereby order that:

1. The Civil War Commemoration Task Force is created under Minnesota Statutes, section 15.0593, to promote and share the rich history of the American Civil War and Minnesota's connection to it.

2. The task force consists of a constitutional officer appointed by the Governor to serve as co-chair, two members of the Senate appointed under the rules of the Senate, two members of the House of Representatives appointed under the rules of the House of Representatives, a member chosen by the director of the Minnesota Historical Society, and up to nine citizen members, appointed by the Governor, who shall have experience or an interest in planning and conducting public educational programs, and who may include descendants of Minnesotans who participated in the Civil War. One of the members of the Task Force shall be selected by the membership of the Task Force to serve as co-chair. Legislative members' terms are concurrent with their terms of office. The Minnesota Historical Society shall assist with convening and organizing the Task Force.

3. The task force shall oversee the development of statewide, balanced activities commemorating the Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War and Minnesota's involvement in it; these activities shall result in a positive legacy and long-term public benefit.

4. The task force shall encourage civic, historical, educational, economic, and other organizations throughout Minnesota to organize and participate in activities to expand the understanding and appreciation of the significance of the Civil War.

5. The task force may provide technical assistance to nonprofit organizations and local units of government to further the commemoration of the sesquicentennial.

6. The task force shall encourage the development and conduct of programs designed to involve all citizens in activities that commemorate the Civil War.

Under Minnesota Statutes, section 4.035, subdivision 2, this Executive Order is effective 15 days after publication in the State Register and filing with the Secretary of State, and expires on December 31, 2015.

In Testimony Whereof, I have set my hand on April 8, 2011.

Mark Dayton
Governor

Filed According to Law:

Mark Ritchie
Secretary of State

FILED
APR 2011
(MN) SECRETARY OF STATE