



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

- WHEREAS: Navy SEAL Special Operator Second Class Nicholas Patrick Spehar, twenty-four years of age, was a lifelong resident of Minnesota, born October 19, 1986 in Minneapolis and spending his years in Chisago City; and
WHEREAS: Special Operator Second Class Nicholas Patrick Spehar was a 2005 graduate of Chisago Lakes High School, where he excelled academically and was a stand-out in football, baseball, and swimming; and
WHEREAS: Special Operator Second Class Nicholas Patrick Spehar enlisted in the United States Navy in March, 2007, earning a spot in the Navy SEALs; and
WHEREAS: Special Operator Second Class Nicholas Patrick Spehar's first deployment took him to the Philippines in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, where he earned the prestigious position of Honor Man in both Naval Special Warfare Lead Breacher and Naval Special Warfare Sniper School. After a second deployment to Yemen, Special Operator Second Class Spehar volunteered for deployment to Afghanistan; and
WHEREAS: Special Operator Second Class Nicholas Patrick Spehar was a remarkable soldier, earning both an Army Achievement Medal and a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal; and
WHEREAS: Special Operator Second Class Nicholas Patrick Spehar gave the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom and died a hero on Saturday, August 6, 2011, in the Wardak Province of Afghanistan, when the CH-47 Chinook helicopter in which he was riding crashed during combat operations; and
WHEREAS: Special Operator Second Class Nicholas Patrick Spehar was genuine, courageous, and full of integrity. A focused and exceptional leader, he was extremely close to his family, and strong in his faith; and
WHEREAS: Special Operator Second Class Nicholas Patrick Spehar is remembered by his parents, Patrick and Annette; sisters, Marie (and brother-in-law Anthony), and Lisa; brothers, Luke and Jacob, and many loving relatives, friends, and neighbors; and
WHEREAS: A celebration of Nicholas' life will be held Friday, August 19, 2011, followed by private interment; and
WHEREAS: The State of Minnesota recognizes Special Operator Second Class Nicholas Patrick Spehar for his dedicated service to and sacrifice 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 entire community.

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 Friday, August 19, 2011, in honor and remembrance of Special Operator Second Class Nicholas Patrick Spehar.



Mark Ritchie

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 18th day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand and eleven, and of the State the one hundred fifty-third.

Mark Dayton

GOVERNOR