



A SENATE RESOLUTION

honoring the Royal Lao Armed Forces veterans in America.

WHEREAS, each year, Lao American veterans of the United States take pride in celebrating Royal Lao Armed Forces Day and this year's celebration will be on Saturday, March 28, 2009, in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, Royal Lao Armed Forces veterans, along with Lao community members and friends, assemble on that day to pay tribute to the brave soldiers who fought to protect Laos and to memorialize those who gave their lives in defense of peace and freedom during the "Secret War" in Laos in the 1960's and 1970's; and

WHEREAS, the Royal Armed Forces, including both regular and irregular forces, represent all Lao ethnicities, and the nearly 250,000 fighters deployed suffered a heavy toll during the "Secret War," with casualties in Laos of 57,500 men killed in action and 120,000 wounded; and

WHEREAS, of the 57,500 killed, about 50,000 were Lao and other ethnic groups, 5,000 were South Vietnamese, 2,000 were Thai, and 500 were American; and

WHEREAS, because of Laos' strategic position, thousands of North Vietnamese had to go through Laos on the Ho Chi Minh Trail to wage the war in South Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, the war in Laos and deterrent efforts along the Ho Chi Minh Trail inflicted heavy casualties on the North Vietnamese Army which greatly reduced casualties of the American forces deployed in South Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, although the Royal Lao Armed Forces faced a tragic and historic turn in 1975 and its fighting members were consequently forced to take refuge in many parts of the world, the Royal Lao Veterans of America are proud to solemnly commemorate Royal Lao Armed Forces Day and honor the men and women of the Royal Lao Armed Forces; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the State of Minnesota that it thanks and commends the Royal Lao Armed Forces for their sacrifices in the name of freedom and democracy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is directed to prepare an enrolled copy of this resolution, to be authenticated by his signature and that of the Chair of the Senate Rules and Administration Committee, and transmit it to the executive director of Royal Lao Veterans of America.

Handwritten signature of Peter S. Wattson in blue ink.

Peter S. Wattson  
Secretary of the Senate  
(Legislative)

Handwritten signature of Lawrence J. Pogemiller in blue ink.

Lawrence J. Pogemiller  
Chair, Senate Committee on  
Rules and Administration

Handwritten signature of Mee Moua in blue ink.

Mee Moua  
State Senator, District 67

