

**SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-FIRST SESSION**

S.R. No. 29

(SENATE AUTHORS: HAWJ)

DATE
01/10/2019

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Introduction
Referred to Rules and Administration

OFFICIAL STATUS

A Senate resolution

honoring Dr. Yang Dao's 75th birthday.

WHEREAS, Dr. Yang Dao was born on September 7, 1943, in Xieng Khouang Province of the Kingdom of Laos to Yaj Mi Nu and Hawj Kawm; and

WHEREAS, in September 1950, Dr. Yang Dao received a scholarship from the French colonial administration of French Indochina and started his education in Dalat, South Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Yang Dao passed the French examinations in June 1959, which allowed him to continue his education at Lycee de Vientiane; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Yang Dao received his national French high-school diploma (*baccalaureat francais*) in June 1964 and graduated from the University of Paris in June 1968; and

WHEREAS, in April 1972, Dr. Yang Dao became the first Hmong in history to hold a PhD, graduating from Sorbonne University in Paris, France; and

WHEREAS, upon returning to Laos, Dr. Yang Dao became the director to the Ministry of Planning of the Royal Lao Government and a consultant to General Vang Pao; and

WHEREAS, after the Vientiane Treaty in February 1973, Dr. Yang Dao was appointed by King Sisavang Vatthana of the Kingdom of Laos to become a member of the National Political Consultative Council of Coalition; and

WHEREAS, when the US withdrew from Southeast Asia, Dr. Yang Dao escaped with his family to Thailand and then left in July 1976 to take political asylum in Paris, France, where he made endless efforts for the US Embassy to resettle Hmong refugees; and

WHEREAS, in 1983, Dr. Yang Dao and his family moved to the US from Paris and settled in St. Paul, Minnesota, where he worked at the University of Minnesota and joined the Board of Administration at Saint Paul Public Schools; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Yang Dao also served on the advisory board to launch the first Hmong television broadcast, Kev Koom Siab, in 1991, to help the Hmong community in Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Yang Dao is a highly renowned, respectable, and influential international leader, author (*Hmong at the Turning Point*, 1993), national songwriter, and tireless advocate for the Hmong community to pursue education; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Yang Dao lives in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, with his wife, Ly Mo, their 5 children, 15 grandchildren, and 6 great-grandchildren, and remains active in the community; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the State of Minnesota that it congratulates Dr. Yang Dao on his 75th birthday and his career accomplishments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is directed to prepare an enrolled copy of this resolution, to be authenticated by the Secretary's signature and that of the Chair of the Senate Rules and Administration Committee, and transmit it to Dr. Yang Dao.

Cal R. Ludeman
Secretary of the Senate

Paul E. Gazelka
Chair, Senate Committee on
Rules and Administration

Foung Hawj
State Senator, District 67

John A. Hoffman
State Senator, District 36

Chris A. Eaton
State Senator, District 40