

A Senate resolution

honoring the life and service of Youa Toua Her.

WHEREAS, Youa Toua Her was born on February 14, 1950, in Phuaj Khaum of Roob Nyuj, a remote village in Laos; and

WHEREAS, from 1960 to 1966, he attended Meung Luang Prabang School before being recruited into the CIA-sponsored secret operation in Laos as a combat soldier from 1967 to 1975; and

WHEREAS, with the skills he acquired on the battleground and leadership training received, he quickly rose to the rank of Captain with a platoon of 100 men under his command who suffered zero casualties; and

WHEREAS, he married his wife Der in 1972, and after the fall of Vietnam in 1975, he and his family went into hiding to escape retaliation from the Pathet Lao government for his involvement in the war; and

WHEREAS, in January 1980, he and his family arrived at the Ban Vinai Refugee Camp in Thailand and worked with the Joint Volunteer Agency as a teacher; and

WHEREAS, he and his family arrived in the United States, initially residing in St. Paul, where he attended the International Institute and received a certification of completion in the English as a Second Language program in August 1981; and

WHEREAS, in March 1983, he received a diploma of completion in the Production Machinist program from Anoka Technical College and worked for Marshall Manufacturing Company in Minneapolis as a machine operator; and

WHEREAS, in October 1984, he and his growing family moved to Eureka, California, still maintaining very strong involvement in the Hmong community in Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, for the next several decades he lived and worked in Eureka and Fresno and was actively involved with many Hmong organizations; and

WHEREAS, he and his wife had seven children and now have 24 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, he continues to support the unity of the Hmong community, building bridges with other communities, and promoting education to the youth; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the State of Minnesota that it honors Youa Toua Her, who has been a true leader and pillar to the Hmong community, and commends him for his outstanding military service and service to his community, state, and country.

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 Youa Toua Her.

Cal R. Ludeman
Secretary of the Senate

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

Foung Hawj
State Senator, District 67