

A Senate resolution

honoring Maikou Xiong.

WHEREAS, Maikou, the oldest of ten siblings, was born on May 3, 1970, in Long Tieng, Laos, to Samao Xiong and Vue Vang, and lived in Laos and Thailand before moving to Lompoc, California, in 1978 to escape political persecution in the aftermath of the Secret War in Laos; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from high school, Maikou attended Chapman University in Orange, California, where she received a Bachelor of Arts in Social Sciences degree along with a teaching credential in elementary education. She went on to receive a master of arts degree in 2013 from Concordia University in St. Paul and her K-12 Principal Licensure from Minnesota State University, Mankato, in 2017; and

WHEREAS, she began her career in education in 1996, teaching grades 1 and 3 at La Canada Elementary School. Outside of the classroom at La Canada, she developed and managed the district's Hmong Language and Culture Program, Hmong Enrichment Program, and Multi-Culture Day; and

WHEREAS, following her move to Minnesota in 2000, Maikou began working at HOPE Community Academy as a leader, mentor, and trainer, assessing and developing math curriculums and working alongside student teachers. She spent several years with HOPE Academy before shifting to the Community School of Excellence in St. Paul, where she worked as a math coach and Hmong curriculum coordinator; and

WHEREAS, from 2010 to 2017, Maikou pioneered a reading intervention program for Hmong Dual Language students through collaboration with St. Paul Public Schools, facilitating dual language immersion programs in curriculums and sharing her expertise at multiple national conferences; and

WHEREAS, Maikou has developed significant connections with friends from many diverse backgrounds, opening her heart and her home to all. She was featured in the book "Success That Looks Like Me," as one of the 25 most inspiring and empowering Hmong Americans in the United States. Maikou hosts a talk show and works as a news anchor for 3HmongTV, which discusses and reflects on issues faced by the Minnesota Hmong community. Additionally, she is the author of the children's book "Melody of the Qeej," and co-author of both "Jouana: A Hmong Cinderella" and "The Enchanted Necklace"; and

WHEREAS, Maikou's career, her community involvement, and her commitment to her family personify the best of the Hmong and the best of the American experience; and

WHEREAS, as a Hmong American leader, Maikou has earned the respect, admiration, and gratitude of all Minnesotans; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the State of Minnesota that it recognizes the value in the works and contributions of Maikou Xiong in advancing the interests of the Minnesota Hmong population.

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 Maikou Xiong.

Cal R. Ludeman
Secretary of the Senate

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

Carolyn Laine
State Senator, District 41