

SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-SECOND SESSION

S.R. No. 96

(SENATE AUTHORS: HAWJ)
DATE
02/07/2022

D-PG
Introduction
Referred to Rules and Administration

OFFICIAL STATUS

A Senate resolution

honoring Snowden Herr for his outstanding service to his community and state.

WHEREAS, Snowden Herr was born June 8, 1964, on the outskirts of Phonesavanh, Xieng Khouang, Laos, the eldest child of father Kao Herr and mother Kaying Vang; and

WHEREAS, Snowden became an orphan in 1966 after his father was killed at the Plain of Jars during the Secret War in Laos. His mother remarried, and left him and his brother to be raised by his uncle, Toulee Herr, and grandparents, Chia Nai Her and True Yang. Malaria claimed all of Uncle Toulee's six children and his brother Chee, leaving Snowden as the only surviving foster son to his uncle; and

WHEREAS, Snowden went to school in Long Tieng from 1971 to 1974. After Laos fell to Communist control, the Hmong were hunted down. From 1975 to 1978 Snowden fought as a child soldier to defend the jungle encampment where his family took refuge; and

WHEREAS, on June 23, 1978, his family and other Hmong fled Laos, crossing the Mekong River to Thailand and suffering an enormous tragedy to finally reach the Nong Khai Refugee Camp; and

WHEREAS, on September 1, 1979, Snowden arrived in Clinton, Iowa, sponsored by Catholic Social Services, and lived with his uncle Chad Vua Her; and

WHEREAS, in March of 1981, Snowden moved to St. Paul and graduated from Highland Park Senior High School on June 8, 1983. He graduated from Augsburg University in 1987 with a B.S. degree in Political Science and Western Philosophy while working a dishwasher to pay his college tuition; and

WHEREAS, after he graduated from college, Snowden worked for a number of refugee assistance programs in Minnesota and has been an avid volunteer to the Hmong 18 Council and served Hawj United of Minnesota as secretary and vice president; and

WHEREAS, Snowden married Maiyia Vue, who together have 12 children and two grandchildren. He ran a cleaning supply business in Maplewood while earning an M.B.A. from Devry University; and

WHEREAS, Snowdon started a translation company called Asian American Language Services, has become a successful entrepreneur and respected community leader, and was elected as the president of Hawj United of Minnesota for the 2019-2022 term; and

WHEREAS, Snowdon is highly respected by his Hmong peers for his community engagement. Among other volunteering and fiduciary duties, Snowdon committed time to serve in the Ramsey County Equity Action Circle, St. Paul-Changsha China Friendship Garden, St. Paul Parks and Recreation, Hmong 18 Council including as its Anti-Asian Bias Task Force Committee Chairman, and community building events for Senator Fong Hawj; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the State of Minnesota that it Snowdon Herr for his outstanding service to his community and state.

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 Snowdon Herr.

Cal R. Ludeman
Secretary of the Senate

Jeremy R. Miller
Chair, Senate Committee on
Rules and Administration

Fong Hawj
State Senator, District 67