

SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-SECOND SESSION

S.R. No. 125

(SENATE AUTHORS: PRATT and Hawj)

DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
04/19/2022	Introduction Referred to Rules and Administration	

1.1

A Senate resolution

1.2

honoring Pengsan Ou for his many years of notable service to the Cambodian

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community in Minnesota.

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WHEREAS, Pengsan Ou was born on June 10, 1947, in the province of Kampong Cham,

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in the District of Srey Santhor Commune of Russey Srok, Kampuchea; and

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WHEREAS, Pengsan's youth was spent in dire poverty, yet he still developed a desire and

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a determination to obtain an education. During the day he sold food on the streets of his village to

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provide for his family, and at night he studied with great resolve; and

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WHEREAS, between 1967 and 1975, Pengsan taught sixth grade. In 1975, the Khmer Rouge

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took power and closed the schools. Pengsan, his wife, his two daughters, and his son were put in

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re-education camps. It was during his family's time in the camps that two of his children tragically

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passed away; and

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WHEREAS, Pengsan and his family arrived in the United States on April 29, 1981. In

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Minnesota, Pengsan taught bilingual civics at Edison High School in Minneapolis. He worked full

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time as a teacher and worked 32 hours a week at night on the assembly line at Control Data; and

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WHEREAS, while Pengsan managed the struggles that refugees often experience in America,

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his hard work inspired his children to take full advantage of all that America has to offer. He inspired

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and assisted his children at home and made time for community service. He never forgot his roots;

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and

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WHEREAS, for more than 30 years, Pengsan could be found at Watt (Temple) Munisotaram

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every weekend where he shared his ideas and his energy to help establish and expand the temple;

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and

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WHEREAS, due to Pengsan's declining health, he has been forced to reduce his volunteer

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hours at the temple and in the community. Currently, Pengsan participates in a weekly meeting

2.1 with other members of the Cambodian community. This meeting, part of the Paris Peace Agreement,
2.2 is about humanitarian rights in Cambodia and addresses topics from politics to culture. It also raises
2.3 awareness regarding the sovereignty of Cambodia, stressing the erosion of individual sovereignty
2.4 that has been slowly disappearing at the hands of foreign invaders; and

2.5 **WHEREAS**, Pengsan has spent most of his life tirelessly volunteering his time, resources,
2.6 and energy toward the betterment of the Cambodian community in Minnesota and abroad; and

2.7 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Senate of the State of Minnesota that it
2.8 honors Pengsan Ou for his many years of outstanding service to his community and state.

2.9 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Secretary of the Senate is directed to prepare an
2.10 enrolled copy of this resolution, to be authenticated by the Secretary's signature and that of the
2.11 Chair of the Senate Rules and Administration Committee, and transmit it to Pengsan Ou.

Cal R. Ludeman
Secretary of the Senate

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

Eric R. Pratt
State Senator, District 55