

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

S.R. No. 52

(SENATE AUTHORS: HAWJ)

DATE
05/12/2023

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Introduction
Referred to Rules and Administration

OFFICIAL STATUS

A Senate resolution

honoring the life of Hmong Cultural Grand Master Xib Fwb Cher Mia Vang.

WHEREAS, Hmong Cultural Grand Master Mr. Cher Mia Vang - Xib Fwb Txawj Miav Vang - was born April 10, 1931, in the city of Qhas Kawj, state of Qhas Muaj, Laos, to Mr. Shoua Lue Vang and Mrs. Mee Xiong Vang and was the youngest of nine siblings; and

WHEREAS, from 1955 to 1959, as a studious disciple under several Hmong cultural experts, Mr. Vang learned, practiced, and mastered marriage rites as a Wedding Negotiator, or Mej Koob; mastered funeral procedures and songs as a Chosen Master, or Txiv Xaiv; and volunteered servicing these needs to the community; and

WHEREAS, from 1963 to 1975, Mr. Vang bravely defended and fought against the communist Pathet Lao as a Special Guerilla Unit soldier and nursed wounded soldiers injured in combat, including General Vang Pao; and

WHEREAS, after Laos collapsed into communist control in May 1975, Mr. Vang and his wife, who he married in 1959, sought political asylum in the Ban Vinai Refugee Camp in Thailand, where he continued serving his people's cultural and spiritual needs; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Vang and his family immigrated to St. Paul, Minnesota, on December 29, 1980. He worked full time to provide for his family, which included eight daughters and nine sons, and he selflessly devoted his weekends to officiating wedding ceremonies and serving as the Chosen Master at memorial ceremonies; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, Mr. Vang retired from work and committed more time to serving the community with his cultural expertise; sharing his knowledge as an advisor for several Hmong cultural councils, including the late General Vang Pao's procession; and passing on his knowledge and teachings to more than 100 disciples. He also authored the book *Khaws Hmoob Puav Pheej* to preserve his life's work as a Hmong Cultural Grand Master; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Vang passed away on March 15, 2023, in Maplewood, Minnesota. He will be revered for his lifelong contributions to Hmong cultural practices, wedding and funeral rites, and traditions of the Hmong American society; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the State of Minnesota that it honors the life of Hmong Cultural Grand Master Xib Fwb Cher Mia Vang and extends its deepest sympathies to his family and friends.

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 the family of Xib Fwb Cher Mia Vang.

Tom Bottern
Secretary of the Senate

Kari Dziedzic
Chair, Senate Committee on
Rules and Administration

Foung Hawj
State Senator, District 67