

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

**S.R. No. 56**

(SENATE AUTHORS: HAWJ, Hoffman, Xiong and Pappas)

DATE  
05/17/2023

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Introduction  
Referred to Rules and Administration

OFFICIAL STATUS

A Senate resolution

honoring the lifelong and dedicated community service of Mr. Xang Vang.

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Xang Vang was born November 1, 1950, in the Nong Het District, Xieng Khouang Province, Laos, to Mr. Nhia Bee Vang and Mrs. Sao Yang; and

**WHEREAS**, during the Secret War (1961-1975), Vang joined the CIA's Secret Army, the Special Guerillas Unit (SGU), as a sergeant to defend freedom and democracy. In 1969, he worked in the ammunition department and was promoted to lieutenant. He remained at this post until Laos fell into communist control on May 14, 1975. In 1976, Vang and his family immigrated to Wisconsin; then in 1978, they moved to Minnesota; and

**WHEREAS**, Vang is a pioneer in helping Hmong refugees adjust and become self-sufficient as new Americans. He served as executive director of various nonprofit agencies to advocate for and implement refugee assistance programs, including the Lao Family Community of Minnesota, Hmong American Mutual Assistance Association, and Hmong Youth Association of Minnesota, and generously donated \$20,000 to the Center for Hmong Studies at Concordia University-St. Paul; and

**WHEREAS**, in the early 1980s, as a lifelong farmer, Vang took part in the creation of the Minnesota Agricultural Enterprise for New Americans in partnership with the University of Minnesota. The program taught refugees to grow and sell fresh produce at farmer markets throughout the Twin Cities; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2006, Vang became the executive director of SGU Veterans and Families of USA, Inc. In 2013, he testified before the Minnesota Legislature for state funding to build the Hmong and Lao Veterans Commemorative Memorial that now stands on the State Capitol grounds; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Senate of the State of Minnesota that it honors Mr. Xang Vang with gratitude and respect for his significant contributions to humanity and thanks him for his life of dedicated service.

**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 Mr. Xang Vang.

Tom Bottern  
Secretary of the Senate

Kari Dziezic  
Chair, Senate Committee on  
Rules and Administration

Susan Pha  
State Senator, District 38

Foung Hawj  
State Senator, District 67

Tou Xiong  
State Senator, District 44

Sandra L. Pappas  
State Senator, District 65

John A. Hoffman  
State Senator, District 34