

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

S.R. No. 64

(SENATE AUTHORS: HAWJ)

DATE
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OFFICIAL STATUS

Introduction
Referred to Rules and Administration

A Senate resolution

celebrating the life of John Thao.

WHEREAS, John Thao was born on January 17, 1991, in the city of San Diego, California, the third of seven children born to father Va Xai Thao and mother Chai Yang. John's parents married in 1987 and provided the foundation for the values that would guide him through life; and

WHEREAS, John grew up in San Diego, California, where his family lived for 12 years before moving to Winder, Georgia. The family moved to Minnesota in 2007, where John graduated from Patrick Henry High School and received a bachelor's degree in computer science from the University of Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, as a young adult, John developed a deep passion for sports cars. His love for these sleek machines led him to join a Honda S2000 club called MN S2K. To those within the club, John was more than just an administrator or a friend, he was family. His commitment to cars and camaraderie left an enduring legacy; and

WHEREAS, John also found his calling in music as a manager for Vichai Band, a prominent local Hmong music group. John built relationships with third-party event organizers and handled contracts for the band. John also managed the business aspects of SyndicateFour LLC in association with the band; and

WHEREAS, John was also a valuable player for and member of Sepak Takraw of USA, Inc. John presented the traditional Southeast Asian game of Sepak Takraw in front of the Minnesota Senate in 2015 to help secure state funding for construction of six Sepak Takraw courts in St. Paul in 2018; and

WHEREAS, John and Team USA made history by winning two gold medals in Daejeon, South Korea, at the 2022 International Sepaktakraw Federation World Cup; and

WHEREAS, John Thao passed away on September 23, 2023, and will be greatly missed by many; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the State of Minnesota that it honors John Thao's life as a testament to passion, dedication, and selflessness. His legacy lives on, a reminder of what one individual can achieve when they give their all to their passions and communities.

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 John Thao.

Tom Bottern
Secretary of the Senate

Kari Dziejic
Chair, Senate Committee on
Rules and Administration

Tou Xiong
State Senator, District 44

Foung Hawj
State Senator, District 67

John A. Hoffman
State Senator, District 34

Bobby Joe Champion
State Senator, District 59