

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

**S.R. No. 66**

(SENATE AUTHORS: HAWJ)

DATE  
02/12/2024

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Introduction  
Referred to Rules and Administration

OFFICIAL STATUS

A Senate resolution

honoring Michael Cherwayia Thao for a lifetime of community service.

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Michael Cherwayia Thao was born on April 2, 1965, in the city of Pham Nau, Long Cheng, Laos, to Mr. and Mrs. Tong Xao Thao and was the second of four children; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Thao immigrated to St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1978 and has resided in the great state of Minnesota ever since, contributing to the community as a state employee, successful businessman, political activist, and volunteer; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Thao graduated from Augsburg College in 1991 with a Bachelor of Science in computer science and minors in mathematics and physics; and

**WHEREAS**, from 1990 to 2009, Mr. Thao served the state as a system analyst at the Department of Human Services; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Thao is also a businessman with a passion for helping one family at a time to build generational wealth. By 2008, Mr. Thao owned several businesses such as Partners Enterprise Realty, LLC; MCT Tax Services, Inc.; and Generational Properties, Inc. In 2022, he worked with the city of St. Paul to build an affordable 60-unit apartment complex on the East Side; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Thao served the community as a political activist, fulfilling roles such as co-founder and treasurer of the Hmong American DFL Caucus. He was instrumental in helping many people to elected office, including St. Paul School Board Members Neal Thao and Al Ortwig; Councilmember Dai Thao; State Senators John Marty, Ellen R. Anderson, Mee Moua, and Fong Hawj; Congressman Bruce Vento; and United States Senator Paul Wellstone; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Thao also actively serves in leadership roles as Vice President of Thao United National, Inc., Chair of Gold Medalist Sunisa Lee Welcome Celebration Committee, treasurer of Hmong Youth Association of Minnesota, Inc., co-founder of Minnesota Hmong Chamber, board

member of North East Neighborhood Development Corporation, chairperson of Hmong American New Year Pageant Committee, and hosts a local Hmong radio and television program; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Thao is most notable for his leadership and fundraising with the Minnesota Hmong-Lao Veterans Statue Committee to establish a monument to commemorate the fallen soldiers of the "Secret War" in Laos; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Thao will continue to serve the communities he resides in and the great state of Minnesota; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Senate of the State of Minnesota that it recognizes Michael Cherwayia Thao for a lifetime of community 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 Michael Cherwayia Thao.

Tom Bottern  
Secretary of the Senate

Kari Dziedzic  
Chair, Senate Committee on  
Rules and Administration

Foung Hawj  
State Senator, District 67