



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

WHEREAS: On October 16, 2001, President George W. Bush signed legislation requiring that the United States flag be lowered to half-staff on all federal buildings to memorialize fallen firefighters; and

WHEREAS: Minnesota Senate File 237 was unanimously passed by the Legislature and signed into law on May 15, 2009, creating Minnesota Fallen Firefighters Memorial Day; and

WHEREAS: In 2026, Governor Tim Walz signed into law an expansion of Minnesota’s existing law governing line-of-duty death benefits for public safety officers to include firefighters and peace officers who die from duty-related carcinogen exposure or infectious diseases, honoring the sacrifices of those who give their lives in service to the people of Minnesota; and

WHEREAS: The Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association, Minnesota State Fire Department Association, Minnesota Professional Fire Fighters Association, and fire service leaders across the state have made it their goal to ensure every firefighter makes it home safely at the end of their shift and support this act of recognition in honor of those who did not; and

WHEREAS: An average of 100 firefighters make the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty each year in the United States; and

WHEREAS: Every day, volunteer, paid-on-call, part-time, and career firefighters in 766 Minnesota fire departments protect the lives and property of people throughout Minnesota; and

WHEREAS: In 2026, firefighters from Minnesota and across the nation have worked under dangerous conditions to protect lives, property, and natural resources during wildfires in northeastern Minnesota, including fires affecting communities in and around the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness; and

WHEREAS: The State of Minnesota honors all firefighters who have been killed in the line of duty and recognizes the bravery, service, and sacrifice of firefighters who continue to answer the call.

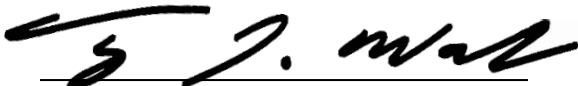
NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM WALZ, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Sunday, September 27, 2026, as:

FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL DAY

in the State of Minnesota and do hereby order all United States flags and Minnesota flags be flown at half-staff at all state buildings in Minnesota, from sunrise until sunset on Sunday, September 27, 2026, in honor of firefighters who have been killed or disabled in the line of duty.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 25th day of September.


GOVERNOR


SECRETARY OF STATE