

WHEREAS; the Hmong are an ethnically and culturally diverse people originally from southern China and throughout Southeast Asia, specifically Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, and Myanmar; and

WHEREAS; during the Vietnam War, the Central Intelligence Agency and United States Armed Forces recruited, organized, trained, and assisted Hmong forces to support the American war effort, and when the United States withdrew from the region in the early 1970s, the Hmong faced harsh retribution from the communist Vietnamese and Lao governments for their involvement; and

WHEREAS; thousands of Hmong people courageously fought alongside Americans during this “secret war,” and many were ultimately forced to flee their native lands and resettle in communities throughout the United States, including in Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS; Hmong Americans have lived and worked in Wisconsin for over 45 years, and have greatly contributed to our state’s rich history, culture, economy, and public service; and

WHEREAS; recognized statewide since 2004, Hmong Heritage Month—formerly Hmong History Month—is an opportunity for Wisconsinites to reflect on the many sacrifices that the Hmong people have made in service to our country and to celebrate the vibrant, resilient, and diverse culture of Hmong Wisconsinites as an important part of our state’s identity; and

WHEREAS; we recognize that this year’s celebration of Hmong Heritage Month comes at a time of increased racism and violence directed towards the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities throughout the United States and in Wisconsin; and

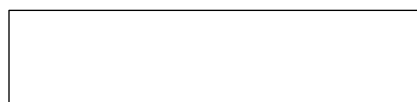
WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin joins all Wisconsinites in denouncing all forms of hate, embracing our diversity, celebrating the many Hmong communities across our state, and reaffirming our commitment to working towards a Wisconsin that is a safe, diverse, welcoming, and inclusive place for all;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim April 2021 as

## **HMONG HERITAGE MONTH**

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance  
to all our state’s residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 31<sup>st</sup> day of March 2021.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State