

# Proclamation

- WHEREAS, the Hmong-American diaspora, that is the settlement of Hmong people throughout America, has direct ties to the assistance Hmong people have provided during the Secret War conducted in Laos during the Vietnam War, and;
- WHEREAS, more than 40,000 Hmong men were enlisted by the Central Intelligence Agency as allies to the U.S. military to fight Communist forces operating in Laos and Vietnam, and sustained large numbers of casualties and forced relocation, and;
- WHEREAS, unlike the soldiers, sailors, and pilots who came back from the war to their home country, the Hmong-Lao people who fought in the war weren't familiar to America, even though they are credited with saving American lives, and;
- WHEREAS, beginning in the mid-1970s, social and church groups began assisting Hmong refugees to settle in the United States, and Manitowoc County became home to many, and;
- WHEREAS, the first generation of immigrants reconciled the need to retain the unique traditions of their culture, while also attempting to gain acceptance in their new country, and;
- WHEREAS, the assimilation of tradition into the realities of current surroundings has resulted in a distinctive Hmong-American culture, and;
- WHEREAS, Hmong people make up Manitowoc's largest single minority ethnic group, and are helping to build a vibrant and diverse Wisconsin, contributing socially, politically, and economically to our state, and;
- WHEREAS, after more than 40 years in the United States, the Hmong community has progressed to achieving the American Dream, becoming business owners and professionals in Manitowoc, and;
- WHEREAS, last year in 2021, the City of Manitowoc was the second city in the State of Wisconsin to commemorate this day and to formally recognize and celebrate the Hmong American community.

Now, therefore, I, Justin M. Nickels, Mayor of the City of Manitowoc, do hereby proclaim **May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022** to be

## **Hmong American Day**

in the City of Manitowoc and I encourage all citizens to recognize and celebrate the history, culture, and contributions of Hmong Americans in Manitowoc, the State of Wisconsin, and the United States of America.

**In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the City of Manitowoc to be affixed. Done at City Hall in the City of Manitowoc this 18th day of April, Twenty Two.**

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**Justin M. Nickels, Mayor**