



STATE of MINNESOTA

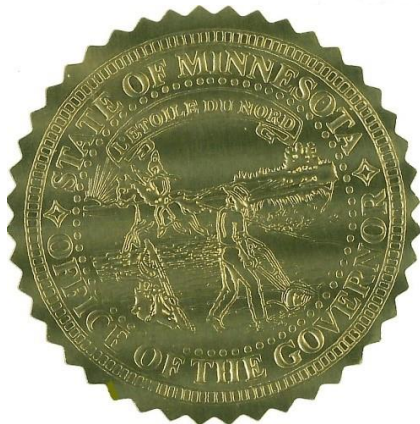
Proclamation

- WHEREAS: Tamil is the longest-surviving classical language in the world, with a traceable history exceeding 2,600 years; and
- WHEREAS: Tamil is an official language in India, Sri Lanka, and Singapore, as well as a minority language in Malaysia, South Africa, Mauritius, and Canada. The Tamil community is widespread, with about 90 million native speakers across the globe; and
- WHEREAS: The Tamil community of Minnesota contributes to bilingual literacy, with Minnesota being the first state to achieve the Seal of Bilingual Literacy for the Tamil language; and
- WHEREAS: Minnesota Tamils have established a self-sustaining literacy model for the Tamil language through scholarship endowment and national-level standards for Tamil education; and
- WHEREAS: Minnesota Tamils have made contributions to the social, economic, and cultural fabric of Minnesota, including promoting Tamil language, arts, culture, and heritage; and
- WHEREAS: The Tamil community across the globe every year celebrates a four-day long Pongal Festival starting on the first day of the first Tamil calendar Month, Thai; and
- WHEREAS: Minnesota Tamils are committed to sharing their vibrant culture, richest traditions, and longstanding history with the people of Minnesota by celebrating January as Tamil Heritage Month; and
- WHEREAS: The Tamil community of Minnesota welcomes and encourages all people across Minnesota to participate in this celebration and experience their rich and inclusive heritage.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM WALZ, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim January 2023 as:

TAMIL LANGUAGE AND HERITAGE MONTH

in the State of Minnesota.



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 28th day of December.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Walz".

GOVERNOR

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Simon".
SECRETARY OF STATE