



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

- WHEREAS: Leslie R. Washington, of Noorvik, Alaska, was a wildland firefighter with Scorched Earth Services (SES), assigned to the company's K-River 2 crew, a Tribal firefighting crew on assignment with the US Wildland Fire Service; and
- WHEREAS: Mr. Washington and his fellow crewmembers traveled from communities throughout rural Alaska, including Huslia, Allakaket, Tanana, Ruby, Kaltag, Fairbanks, Fort Yukon, Venetie, Ambler, Selawik, and Noorvik, to answer the call to protect lives, property, and natural resources on wildland fire assignments nationwide; and
- WHEREAS: Mr. Washington was a member of the Inupiaq People of the Northwest Arctic, and is cherished by his family and by the village of Noorvik, Alaska; and
- WHEREAS: On August 11, 2026, Leslie R. Washington died following a medical emergency while responding to the Bear Trap Fire in Northeastern Minnesota; and
- WHEREAS: The dedication of Mr. Washington, and of firefighters across Minnesota and the nation, is immeasurable as they stand ready to answer the call to protect what we hold dear; and
- WHEREAS: With deep gratitude, the State of Minnesota recognizes Leslie R. Washington for his dedicated service and sacrifice, and our thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends, colleagues, the community of Noorvik, Alaska, and the Inupiaq people of the Northwest Arctic.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM WALZ, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby order all United States flags and Minnesota flags to be flown at half-staff at all state buildings in the State of Minnesota immediately in honor and remembrance of Leslie R. Washington.



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 13th day of August.


GOVERNOR


SECRETARY OF STATE