

PROCLAMATION



Office of the Mayor

WHEREAS, from 1961 to 1975, more than 40,000 Hmong individuals were recruited by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to fight alongside American soldiers in the Secret War, a vital part of the Vietnam War, in Laos; and

WHEREAS, the fall of Long Cheng over 45 years ago forced thousands of Hmong to flee Laos to seek refuge from persecution; and

WHEREAS, many Hmong war refugees and their families immigrated to other countries, including the United States, and to Wisconsin – where today Appleton is home to more than 3,000 Hmong residents; and

WHEREAS, we honor the legacy of the Hmong people who served, were wounded, or lost their lives in battle to ensure America remains the land of the free, knowing we forever owe a debt of gratitude for their sacrifice; and

WHEREAS, the City of Appleton recognizes the important cultural, social, political, and economic contributions of Hmong Americans that provide generational enrichment and enhancement to the city across many sectors, including business, healthcare, education, public safety, and government; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, the City of Appleton was the first in the State of Wisconsin to commemorate this day and to formally recognize and celebrate the history, culture, and contributions of Hmong Americans in Appleton and other cities in Wisconsin.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT I, JACOB A. WOODFORD, Mayor of the City of Appleton, do hereby proclaim May 14th, 2026, as

Hmong American Day

in Appleton and invite you to join us in commemorating this day and formally recognizing and celebrating the history, culture, and contributions of Hmong Americans in Appleton and other cities throughout Wisconsin.



Signed and sealed this 11th day of May 2026.

JACOB A. WOODFORD
MAYOR OF APPLETON