PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, from 1961 to 1975, more than 40,000 Hmong men were recruited by the CIA to fight Communist forces in the Secret War in Laos, a part of the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, in May 1975, the United States withdrew from Laos and hundreds of thousands of Hmong fled into Thailand to seek safety, and soon many Hmong refugees and their families immigrated to Wisconsin--where today Appleton is home to more than 3,000 Hmong; and

WHEREAS, the City of Appleton recognizes the importance of the Hmong Americans through their cultural, social, political and economical contributions that help to make the city more vibrant and diverse; and

WHEREAS, after 40 years in the United States, the Hmong have progressed to achieving the American Dream, becoming business owners and professionals in the Fox Cities; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, the City of Appleton was the first city in the State of Wisconsin to commemorate this day and to formerly 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, TIMOTHY M. HANNA, Mayor of the City of Appleton, Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim from here on forward May 14 as

HMONG AMERICAN DAY

in Appleton and invite you to join us each year in celebrating our Hmong community.

Signed and sealed the 14th day of May, 2016.

TIMOTHY M. HANNA
MAYOR OF APPLETON