STATE *of* MINNESOTA

Proclamation

WHEREAS: More than 300,000 Minnesotans are victims of crime each year and may suffer emotional, physical, psychological, and financial harm as a result of crime; and

WHEREAS: Since the signing of the Minnesota Crime Victim Bill of Rights in 1983, Minnesota statute has provided for the rights of crime victims to be notified of the progress of prosecution, and to be present and provide input. The Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), passed by Congress in 1984, affirmed a national commitment to helping victims rebuild their lives by establishing the Crime Victims' Fund, a major source of funding for services and compensation to victims of crime throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS: A society more connected by electronic media provides increased opportunities to spread awareness about the rights of victims, but also presents new risks and concerns for victims' privacy and financial security; and

WHEREAS: National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 6-12, 2014, provides an opportunity for our country to recognize the VOCA as a major bedrock of support for victim services and to reaffirm our nation's commitment to addressing the needs of victims of crime; and

WHEREAS: Minnesota has been a leader in dynamic solutions to provide services to victims in their journey to recovery and justice, and is joining forces with victim service programs, criminal justice officials, and concerned citizens throughout America, to observe the 30th Anniversary of the VOCA during National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim the week of April 6-12, 2014, as:

CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

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 26th day of February.

GOVERNOR

SECRETARY OF STATE