

## 2003 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 18

February 18, 2003 – Introduced by Senators WELCH, GEORGE, ZIEN, BROWN, DECKER, COWLES, KANAVAS, M. MEYER, HANSEN and CARPENTER, cosponsored by Representatives HUEBSCH, McCORMICK, KRAWCZYK, HUNDERTMARK, KREIBICH, J. WOOD, MUSSER, PLALE, VRAKAS, PETROWSKI, ALBERS, LADWIG, BIES, CULLEN, SCHOOFF, KRUG, TRAVIS, BALOW, PLOUFF, HUBER and TURNER. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

1 **Relating to:** declaring May 14 Hmong–Lao Appreciation Day.

2       Whereas, the Hmong–Lao, once an agrarian community from the mountainous  
3 regions of northern Laos, were recruited by the Central Intelligence Agency to fight  
4 for American interests, and thousands of Hmong–Lao men and young boys fought  
5 bravely alongside Americans; and

6       Whereas, the primary missions of the Hmong–Lao were to rescue downed  
7 American pilots, gather intelligence, safeguard U.S. radar installations, and conduct  
8 both guerrilla and conventional combat; and

9       Whereas, when Americans withdrew from Vietnam in the early 1970s, the  
10 Hmong–Lao were left to face the vengeance of the communist Lao and Vietnamese  
11 governments, who sought to destroy Hmong–Lao in retaliation for their support of  
12 the United States; and

13       Whereas, many Hmong–Lao fled Laos to live in refugee camps in Thailand and  
14 then settled in the United States and other countries, of which more than 250,000  
15 are living in the United States; and

