

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

PROCLAMATION

HUNGARIAN FREEDOM DAY

OCTOBER 23, 2021

WHEREAS, this year marks the 65th anniversary of the Hungarian Uprising, and Hungarians throughout North Dakota and the world will commemorate this historic event and pay tribute to the women and men who against overwhelming odds made tremendous sacrifices for the cause of freedom and democracy; and

WHEREAS, on October 23, 1956, a nationwide revolt against the government of the Hungarian People's Republic and its Soviet-imposed policies began, lasting until November 10, 1956; over 100,000 ordinary citizens became Freedom Fighters in the first major threat to Soviet control since the end of World War II; and

WHEREAS, the revolt began as a demonstration led by university students, which attracted thousands of men, women and children who marched through central Budapest from the statue of General Jozef Bem to the Parliament building; as protestors continued to march to the Hungarian Radio Building to have their 16 points read, shots were fired into the demonstration, turning the peaceful protest into a revolution; and

WHEREAS, as news of the revolution spread throughout the city and into the countryside, a new government led by Imre Nagy called for Hungarians to unite for reform and pledged for free elections and to liberate political prisoners, and Hungary formally declared its intention to withdraw from the Warsaw Pact; and

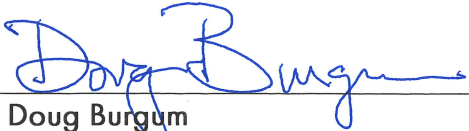
WHEREAS, on November 4, 1956, Soviet Forces invaded Budapest and other regions of Hungary to suppress the revolt, and intense fighting continued until November 10; over 2,500 Hungarians along with 700 Soviet troops lost their lives in the uprising, while over 200,000 fled Hungary; mass arrests by Soviet forces ensued in Hungary following the uprising, which included Prime Minister Imre Nagy along with thousands of Hungarians; they would be subsequently tried, tortured or executed; and


WHEREAS, with the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact, Hungary officially became a member of NATO; and the Hungarian Parliament officially proclaimed October 23 as a Hungarian National Holiday; and

WHEREAS, Hungarian Americans and their descendants have contributed to the economic development, multicultural diversity and enrichment of all aspects of life in the United States and the state of North Dakota.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim October 23, 2021, HUNGARIAN FREEDOM DAY in the State of North Dakota.




Doug Burgum
GOVERNOR

ATTEST: 
Alvin A. Jaeger
SECRETARY OF STATE