WHEREAS, the service and sacrifice of the men and women who serve in the branches of the United States military has earned the deepest respect of all North Dakotans, and the State of North Dakota is committed to designating time, policy and space that demonstrates the state’s and citizens’ appreciation and gratitude for their service; and

WHEREAS, in 1989, during the 51st Legislative Assembly, the North Dakota Legislature passed Senate Bill 2381, authorizing the creation of a state veterans cemetery; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a state veterans cemetery was supported by all North Dakotans with both public funds and generous private donations used to create and maintain this magnificent facility; and

WHEREAS, beginning with construction efforts, the North Dakota National Guard has been deeply involved in the building, maintenance and operations of the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery; and

WHEREAS, more than 10,700 military veterans and their family members are interred at the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery, beginning with the first veteran laid to rest there on July 7, 1992; and

WHEREAS, the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery provides military veterans and their families a respectful, hallowed and beautiful eternal resting place; and

WHEREAS, the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery is a place of reflection, and the grounds include monuments and plaques memorializing the actions of North Dakota National Guard units in World War II, a monument to North Dakota’s Prisoners of War and a monument to those Missing In Action, all of which occupy a prominent position at the cemetery; and

WHEREAS, on August 30, 1992, the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery was formally dedicated.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim August 30, 2022, NORTH DAKOTA VETERANS CEMETERY RECOGNITION DAY in the State of North Dakota.