

**SENATE  
STATE OF MINNESOTA  
NINETY-SECOND SESSION**

**S.R. No. 112**

(SENATE AUTHORS: HAWJ, Bigham and Hoffman)

DATE  
03/28/2022

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Introduction  
Referred to Rules and Administration

OFFICIAL STATUS

1.1 A Senate resolution

1.2 recognizing the achievements of Sunisa Lee at the 2020 Summer Olympics.

1.3 **WHEREAS**, those who demonstrate the skill, athleticism, and sportsmanship necessary to compete in individual

1.4 and team sports at the Olympics inspire awe and promote unity among viewers across the state, the nation, and the

1.5 world; and

1.6 **WHEREAS**, Sunisa "Suni" Lee was born and raised in St. Paul by her father John Lee and mother Yeev Thao

1.7 who came to America as refugees from Laos. Suni lives in East Side St. Paul, and graduated from South St. Paul High

1.8 School; and

1.9 **WHEREAS**, on July 29, 2021, Suni won the women's gymnastics all-around gold medal at the 2020 Summer

1.10 Olympics, simultaneously becoming the first Minnesotan and Hmong American to win an individual gold medal in

1.11 gymnastics; and

1.12 **WHEREAS**, Suni began training as a gymnast at the age of six at the Midwest Gymnastics Center in Little

1.13 Canada, Minnesota. She sought the opportunity to create friendships and develop new skills, initially training on a

1.14 wooden beam constructed by her father in the backyard of their family home. Suni reached the national stage just six

1.15 years later in 2015, when she competed in the Women's Junior Olympic Level 10 National Championships and placed

1.16 fourth on the uneven bars; and

1.17 **WHEREAS**, Suni has subsequently competed on a national and international level numerous times and she

1.18 took on new leadership roles at the delayed 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo, Japan. Her performance in a challenging

1.19 routine in the Games inspired and challenged her teammates and helped secure a silver medal for the United States

1.20 women's all-around gymnastics team, a bronze medal in the individual uneven bar competition, and a gold medal in

1.21 the individual all-around competition; and

1.22 **WHEREAS**, the State of Minnesota and City of St. Paul proclaimed July 30 as Sunisa Lee Day; and

1.23 **WHEREAS**, Suni's accomplishments represent her own resilience and the perseverance of the Hmong-American

1.24 community. Her dreams, actualized through the support of her family and community, have provided an inspiration

1.25 to people of all ancestries around the world and have made her a point of pride for all Minnesotans; and

1.26 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Senate of the State of Minnesota that it commends Sunisa

1.27 Lee of St. Paul, Minnesota, on her remarkable performance at the 2020 Summer Olympics, extends congratulations to

1.28 her teammates and coach, and offers warm wishes for her promising future.

- 2.1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Secretary of the Senate is directed to prepare an enrolled copy of
- 2.2 this resolution, to be authenticated by the Secretary's signature and that of the Chair of the Senate Rules and
- 2.3 Administration Committee, and transmit it to Sunisa Lee.

Cal R. Ludeman  
Secretary of the Senate

Paul E. Gazelka  
Chair, Senate Committee on  
Rules and Administration

John A. Hoffman  
State Senator, District 36

Foung Hawj  
State Senator, District 67

Karla Bigham  
State Senator, District 54