

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

**S.R. No. 104**

(SENATE AUTHORS: PHA, Xiong and Hawj)

DATE  
05/18/2024

D-PG

Introduction  
Referred to Rules and Administration

OFFICIAL STATUS

A Senate resolution

honoring Dr. Yang Dao, a revered member of the Hmong community in Minnesota.

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Yang Dao was born on September 7, 1943, in Xieng Khouang province of the Kingdom of Laos to Mr. Yang My No and Mrs. Heu Keu and was one of five siblings; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Yang Dao, who speaks and writes fluently in Hmong, Lao, French, and English and possesses excellent command of Vietnamese and Thai, received his Doctorate of Philosophy degree in social science at the University of Paris (also known as La Sorbonne), France, in April 1972, making him the first known Hmong person to earn a doctorate; and

**WHEREAS**, from July 1972 to March 1974, Dr. Yang Dao worked as the director of the human resources department for the Royal Lao Government; and

**WHEREAS**, in April 1974, Dr. Yang Dao was appointed by his Majesty King Sisavang Vatthana of the Kingdom of Laos to be a member of the National Political Consultative Council, which functioned as a National Laotian Congress; and

**WHEREAS**, after the communist Pathet Lao took over Laos in May 1975, Dr. Yang Dao, along with hundreds of thousands of people from diverse Lao ethnic groups, took the road of exile with his family from Laos to refugee camps in Thailand; and

**WHEREAS**, in July 1976, Dr. Yang Dao migrated with his family from Thailand to France, where he taught French language and French modern society to international students in Paris; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Yang Dao moved to America with his family in 1983 after he accepted a Southeast Asia specialist position at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, where he taught anthropology of Southeast Asia, focusing on Hmong history, culture, and traditions; and

**WHEREAS**, currently a retired faculty member at the Department of Asian Cultures and Literatures of the University of Minnesota, Dr. Yang Dao's academic career in Minnesota also included teaching at Hamline University and Metro-State University; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Yang Dao's academic body of work includes *The Hmong-French Dictionary* in 1964; *The Hmong of Laos in the Vanguard of Development* (in French) in 1975; *The Fabulous Adventure of the Poppy People* (in French) in 1978; *The Dragon, the Master of Sky and his Seven Daughters* (a Hmong legend, in French) in 1978; *The Refugees of Origins from Southeast Asia* (in French) in 1980; *The French-Hmong Dictionary* in 1980; *The Hmong in the West* (in English) in 1982; *Minority Cultures of Laos* (in English) in 1992; *Hmong at the Turning Point* (in English) in 1993; *Hmong/Miao in Asia* (in English) in 1998; and *Hmong History, Culture and Spirituality at A Glance Through Speeches* (in English, French, Lao and Hmong) in 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Yang Dao is a renowned speaker who has spoken on Lao-Hmong history and Hmong Literature at national and international conferences, from the French University of Political Sciences and French Nationale Assembly in Paris, France, to American colleges and universities, the Institute of Nationalities of Beijing in China, the Normal Trade Relations of U.S.A.-Laos in Vientiane, Laos, and the University of Chiangmai in Thailand; and

**WHEREAS**, as a prolific musician, Dr. Yang Dao was the first Hmong in Southeast Asia to write and compose modern Hmong songs from 1965 to 1980; and

**WHEREAS**, from 1991 to 1995, Dr. Yang Dao was a board member for the first Hmong Public Television Kev Koom Siab (Path to Unity), for which Senator FOUNG HAWJ was the producer; and

**WHEREAS**, a loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, Dr. Yang Dao and his wife Ly Mo have five children, 15 grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Senate of the State of Minnesota that it honors the exemplary life and legacy of Dr. Yang Dao, a Hmong Minnesotan.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Secretary of the Senate is directed to prepare an enrolled copy of this resolution, to be authenticated by the Secretary's signature and that of the Chair of the Senate Rules and Administration Committee, and transmit it to Dr. Yang Dao.

Tom Bottern  
Secretary of the Senate

Erin P. Murphy  
Chair, Senate Committee on  
Rules and Administration

Susan Pha  
State Senator, District 38

Foung Hawj  
State Senator, District 67

Tou Xiong  
State Senator, District 44