

**RESOLUTION 7-H.F.No. 471**

*A resolution memorializing the International Special Olympics Committee in support of the 1991 International Special Olympics Games.*

WHEREAS, Special Olympics celebrated its 20th Anniversary in 1988 and is the world's largest program of year-round sports training and competition for children and adults with mental retardation; and

WHEREAS, Special Olympics unites the world on the common ground of athletic competition, while fostering interaction and friendship between individuals with mental retardation and those without; and

WHEREAS, Special Olympics offers year-round sports training and competition in more than 25,000 communities in the United States, representing 97 percent of the counties, and in over 90 nations, at no cost to the athletes or their families; and

WHEREAS, Special Olympics is one of only two organizations authorized by the United States Olympic Committee to use the name "Olympics"; and

WHEREAS, the Eighth International Special Olympics Games for athletes with mental retardation will be the largest sporting event in the world held in 1991 and the largest international multi-sport event ever held in Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, the Eighth International Special Olympics Games will be held in the Minneapolis-Saint Paul metropolitan area July 19-27, 1991; and

WHEREAS, the International Special Olympics Games will involve 6,000 athletes from nearly 90 countries, 2,000 coaches, 10,000 family and friends, 30,000 volunteers, and 25,000 to 50,000 participants and spectators per day; and

WHEREAS, the International Special Olympics Games will consist of Aquatics (Swimming and Diving), Athletics (Track and Field), Basketball, Bocce, Bowling, Croquet, Cycling, Equestrian, Football (Soccer), Gymnastics, Powerlifting, Roller Skating, Softball, Table Tennis, Team Handball, Tennis, and Volleyball; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Governor and the Legislature of the State of Minnesota that they encourage all Minnesotans to attend these events and show their support for these special athletes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of State of the State of Minnesota is directed to prepare a certified copy of this memorial and transmit it to the 1991 International Special Olympics Games Committee.

Presented to the governor May 3, 1991

Signed by the governor May 7, 1991, 1:40 p.m.