



73rd Commemoration of Karen Martyrs' Day - August 12, 2023

Whereas: The City of Roseville is committed to recognizing and honoring the contributions of all members of our communities; and

Whereas: The Karen are indigenous people in the Southeast Asian countries of Thailand and Burma (now Myanmar). The Karen aided the British during World War II, and many Karen were killed in the effort; and

Whereas: On August 12, 1950, Karen National leader Saw Ba U Gyi, the founder and president of the Karen National Union (KNU), was assassinated with eight of his colleagues in Kawkaik, Karen State (Burma) by Burmese Army; and

Whereas: Ever since then, August 12 is recognized as Karen National Martyrs' Day; and

Whereas: On Martyrs' Day, Karen people all over the world commemorate and honor fallen leaders, soldiers, and civilians that have lost their lives in the struggle for freedom, democracy, and human rights; and

Whereas: There are more than twenty thousand Karen refugees who now call Minnesota home, making it the largest Karen community in the country; and

Whereas: A growing number of Karen refugees make their home in Roseville and neighboring cities;

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved that the City Council hereby declares August 12, 2023 to be Karen Martyrs' Day in the City of Roseville, County of Ramsey, State of Minnesota, U.S.A.

In Witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Roseville be affixed this 24th day of July, 2023.

Mayor Daniel J. Roe

