

Proclamation



Steve Sutter Day Tuesday, October 8, 2019

- WHEREAS, Steve Sutter founded Minnesota Valley Refuge Friends in 2006 as Refuge Friends Inc., a citizen support group of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge which has a Visitor and Education Center in the City of Bloomington; and
- WHEREAS, Steve Sutter, since 2006, has volunteered more than 6,500 hours as a Refuge volunteer as well as countless hours in various roles as founder, day-to-day administrator, president, and currently Secretary of the Minnesota Valley Refuge Friends' Board; and
- WHEREAS, As the leader of Minnesota Valley Refuge Friends, Steve Sutter has volunteered as well as supported and trained several hundreds of volunteers to serve at the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge front desk, ensuring that half a million visitors from all over the world each year have a positive experience within the Refuge as well as in Bloomington; and
- WHEREAS, As a Board Chair, Steve Sutter has ensured that school children from all over the metro area learn about nature in nature through Minnesota Valley Refuge Friends' Blue Goose Bus Fund, which transported 10,000 students to and from the Refuge in just 2019 alone from schools where at least half of the students are in need of free or reduced-cost lunches; and
- WHEREAS, As a Minnesota Valley Refuge Friends volunteer, Steve Sutter recruited volunteers to help local kids learn how to fish, providing training and support to 400 children in just 2019 alone as well as secured the money to purchase fishing rods the students could take home, ensuring the hook was set for the Twin Cities' next generation of anglers; and
- WHEREAS, As the leader of Minnesota Valley Refuge Friends, Steve Sutter has helped to showcase, protect, and preserve the beauty of the Minnesota Valley Refuge Friends by providing volunteer support and funding for habitat restoration; and
- WHEREAS, Steve Sutter has also been a tireless community leader, serving in the Richfield Fire Department from 1976-2000 where he retired as Assistant Fire Chief, as well as a past president of the Richfield Optimist Club.

*NOW THEREFORE, I, Gene Winstead, Mayor of the City of Bloomington, Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2019, as **Steve Sutter Day** in the City of Bloomington, and I encourage all residents to take time to appreciate the beautiful Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, which is also celebrating its 43rd birthday on Oct. 8, in Bloomington, MN.*

Dated this 7th day of October, 2019.

Gene Winstead, Mayor
City of Bloomington, Minnesota