

***Executive Proclamation***  
***State of South Dakota***  
***Office of the Governor***

*Whereas*, Master Sergeant John C. Mahlen's dedication to service has made him a valuable asset to this state and country; and,

*Whereas*, We have very few occasions to recognize patriotic individuals for their service to this state and country; and,

*Whereas*, Master Sergeant Mahlen has devoted more than 30 years of his life to the service of this state and country, including service in Afghanistan; and,

*Whereas*, His loyalty and leadership have made him a cornerstone in the Armed Forces of this country; and,

*Whereas*, Master Sergeant Mahlen continues to give of himself; and,

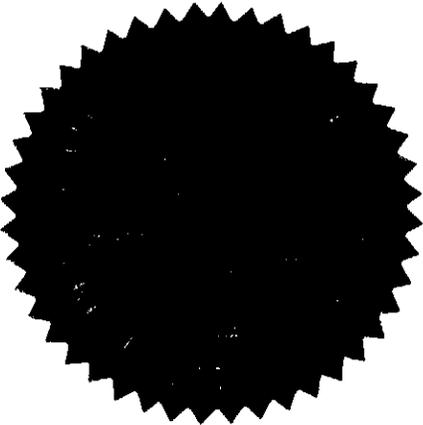
*Whereas*, It is fitting and proper as Governor to commend Master Sergeant John C. Mahlen for more than 30 years of loyal, honorable, and selfless service to this state and country:

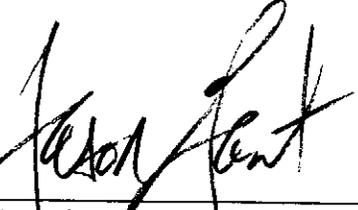
*Now, Therefore, I, Dennis Dugaard*, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim March 31, 2012, as

***MASTER SERGEANT JOHN C. MAHLEN DAY***

in South Dakota, and I join with his family and friends in wishing him well in his retirement and thanking him for his service to the state of South Dakota and to the United States of America.

*In Witness Whereof*, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Thirteenth Day of March in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Twelve.

  
  
Dennis Dugaard, Governor

Attest:  
  
Jason M. Gant, Secretary of State