

# NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Jamie Pfuhl, President  
Minnesota Grocers Association  
(651) 228-0973  
jpfuhl@mngrocers.com

## Governor Tim Walz Proclaims February 22, 2021 Supermarket Employee Day

### *Minnesota Grocers Celebrate our Supermarket Heroes*

St. Paul, MN – February 18, 2021 – The Minnesota Grocers Association (MGA) is joining supermarkets and manufacturers nationwide in celebrating the first-ever Supermarket Employee Day. To expand on the national campaign, we are so pleased to announce Governor Walz, in an acknowledgment of our fantastic essential workers, has proclaimed February 22, 2021 as Supermarket Employee Day in Minnesota – see Proclamation below. Grocers all across Minnesota are recognizing employees at every level for the work they do feeding families and enriching lives in their communities.

“Supermarket employees have met and continue to meet and exceed these challenges, while displaying courage, compassion, dedication, and leadership, as well as exemplifying customer service and community outreach,” reads the proclamation issued by Governor Walz.

There are nearly six million supermarket employees in the United States and over 106,000 food retail jobs in Minnesota that generate \$7,600,000 in economic activity. The food industry provides all Americans with access to safe, healthy, and affordable food. Employees have faced unprecedented challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic and continue to work to enhance the health and well-being of each customer.

“The food industry of Minnesota is the backbone of our communities. Supermarkets have been helping our neighbors to stay strong during the COVID-19 pandemic” said Jamie Pfuhl, MGA President. “When COVID-19 forced people to shelter at home, we stayed open. And we have continued to adapt and serve our communities every day. There is no question that grocery employees are heroes. We are thrilled to honor and celebrate them!”

“Supermarket employees have earned our gratitude and respect, which is why we are creating a holiday to celebrate them,” said Leslie G. Sarasin, president and CEO of FMI—The Food Industry Association. “The fact is they always have been frontline heroes during periods of crisis. In the face of natural disasters or global pandemics, these brave and dedicated individuals keep communities strong and moving forward.”

#### ***About Supermarket Employee Day***

*As the voice of food retail, FMI (The Food Industry Association) has proclaimed this new holiday to recognize employees at every level for the work they do, not only during COVID-19, but every day to feed families and enrich lives.*

#### ***About The Minnesota Grocers Association***

*The Minnesota Grocers Association (MGA) is the only state trade association that represents the food industry of Minnesota from farm to fork. We are one of the oldest trade associations in the state, celebrating over 120 years of advancing industry. We have over 300 retail, manufacture, and wholesale members supporting nearly 1,300 locations statewide. Our member companies employ over 150,000 union and non-union Minnesotans. We actively advance the common interest of all those engaged in any aspect of the retail food industry as a leader and advocate in government affairs.*

###



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

- WHEREAS: There are nearly six million supermarket employees in the United States; and
WHEREAS: In Minnesota there are over 106,000 food retail jobs that generate \$7,600,000 in economic activity; and
WHEREAS: Supermarket employees provide all Americans with access to safe, healthy, and affordable food; and
WHEREAS: Supermarket employees work to enhance the health and well-being of each customer; and
WHEREAS: Supermarket employees contribute and volunteer countless hours in their communities; and
WHEREAS: Supermarket employees have faced unprecedented challenges keeping grocery shelves stocked during the COVID-19 pandemic; and
WHEREAS: Supermarket employees have met and continue to meet and exceed these challenges, while displaying courage, compassion, dedication, and leadership, as well as exemplifying customer service and community outreach; and
WHEREAS: The need for supermarket employees is greater than ever because of current and growing consumer demands as well as their reputation for excellence.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM WALZ, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Monday, February 22, 2021, as:

SUPERMARKET EMPLOYEE DAY

in the State of Minnesota.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 9th day of February.

[Handwritten signature of Tim Walz]

GOVERNOR



[Handwritten signature of Steve Simon]

SECRETARY OF STATE

Filed on February 12, 2021
Office of the Minnesota
Secretary of State,
Steve Simon