

Jon M. Huntsman Jr.

Governor

Declaration

Whereas, on 7 June 1905 Norway unilaterally dissolved her ninety-one-year union with Sweden and became an independent country, and is therefore celebrating its centennial of independence this year; and

Whereas, Norway and Norwegians have significantly contributed to society at large, and to Utah, through such notable people as playwright Henrik Ibsen, explorer Roald Amundsen, expressionist painter Edvard Munch, composer Edvard Grieg, and Nobel Prize-winning novelist Sigrid Undset; and

Whereas, Norwegian immigrants to Utah include such luminaries as Ellen Sanders Kimball (Aagaata Sonda Yestensdatter) from Telemark, wife of Heber C. Kimball and one of the first three women to enter the Salt Lake Valley with Brigham Young in 1847; Canute [Knud] Peterson from Hardanger, frontiersman and leader among the Scandinavian settlers in central Utah; John Andreas Widtsoe from the Island of Frøya, scientist, president of two Utah universities and a Mormon apostle; Torleif Knaphus from Vats (near Haugesund), artist and sculptor of the Mormon handcart statue on Temple Square; Anne Kirstine Mauritzen from Brekke, mother of Reed Smoot (United States Senator from Utah and long-term Mormon apostle); Alf Engen from Mjondallen, who put Utah on the international ski map and was selected by the *Salt Lake Tribune* as the Utah Athlete of the Century; Johanus Okland from Stord,

founder of Okland Construction Company; Stein Eriksen from Oslo, who was a pioneer in Utah's skiing and hotel industry; and John Langeland, owner of Bergen Distribution Company; and

Whereas, Norwegian businesses such as Okland Construction, Engh Florists, Dyno Nobel Inc., Stein Eriksen Lodge, the Scandia Kaffe House, and the Scandinavia Shop, and have and do contribute to Utah's industry; and

Whereas, Utah has organizations that promote and recognize Norway's ties to Utah, such as the Alf Engen Ski Museum Foundation, the Royal Norwegian Consulate, the Sons of Norway, Nordmanns-Forbundet, and the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies; and

Whereas, Utahns with Norwegian heritage such as Jack Okland and Leo Jacobsen have established programs to bring Norwegian students to study in Utah and to bring Norwegian government, education, and business leaders to visit Utah and give lectures at Utah universities; and

Whereas, Norwegians contributed to the success of the 2002 Salt Lake Winter Olympics, with Norwegian athletes winning 24 medals; and

Whereas, 60,567 Utahns declared their Norwegian heritage in the 2000 United States Census; and

Whereas, His Majesty King Harald of Norway, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haakon, Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Mette-Marit, Her Royal Highness Princess Martha Louise, former Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg, and two current members of the Norwegian government—Valgerd Svarstad-Haugland, Minister of Culture and Church Affairs; Svein Ludvigsen, Minister of Fisheries; and His

Excellency Knut Vollebæk, Norway's Ambassador to the United States, have made visits to Utah; and

Whereas, His Majesty King Olav and His Majesty King Harald have conferred knighthood on three Utahns—John Langeland, Stein Eriksen, and Erlend D. Peterson for their contributions and service to Norway;

Now Therefore, I, Jon M. Huntsman, Jr., Governor of the State of Utah, hereby declare on this 14th day of January 2005, that the people of Utah and I congratulate and pay tribute to His Majesty King Harald of Norway; to His Excellency Kjell Magne Bondevik, Prime Minister of Norway; to His Excellency Knut Vollebæk, Norway's Ambassador to the United States; and to the people of Norway for their manifold achievements as we join with them in celebrating Norway's one hundred years as an independent country.

**Jon Huntsman,
Jr.**

Governor