

## **P R O C L A M A T I O N**

### **Mid-American Chin Christian Fellowship Day**

**WHEREAS,** the State of Iowa has been a leader in making accommodations for refugees from around the world who have been displaced from their home and homeland because of war, famine, and other tragedies; and

**WHEREAS,** there is a growing Burmese population in the State of Iowa and in our neighboring community of Columbus Junction, Iowa, which has a population of between 400-500 refugees; and

**WHEREAS,** there is a long history linking their home country and their new hometown that is based on early missionaries from Columbus Junction who worked in Burma; and

**WHEREAS,** Pastor Gabriel Lian, Pastor of the Iowa Chin Baptist Church in Columbus Junction, and those within his faith community play a large part in bridging the refugee community to the greater community; and

**WHEREAS,** Pastor Lian and his congregation are organizing the Mid-American Chin Christian Fellowship Gathering in Muscatine, and it is scheduled to take place Friday, August 30, 2013, through Monday, September 2, 2013, utilizing the YMCA, high school sports fields, and Spring Valley Bible Camp; and

**WHEREAS,** The Fellowship Gathering is expected to bring refugees from 11 regional churches together for worship, fellowship, and recreation which is expected to have a positive impact on the local community.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, DeWayne Hopkins, Mayor of the City of Muscatine, Iowa, do hereby claim Saturday, August 31, 2013, as Mid-American Chin Christian Fellowship Day in the City of Muscatine, Iowa.

**IN WITNESS THEREOF,** I have hereunto subscribed my name to be affixed this 1<sup>st</sup> day of August 2013.

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**DeWayne Hopkins, Mayor**