WHEREAS, the City of Seattle draws great strength from a diversity of cultures, heritages, and traditions; and

WHEREAS, Scandinavian immigrants helped settle the City of Seattle, and over 10% of Seattleites are of Scandinavian heritage; and

WHEREAS, Icelandic-born Leif Erikson was the first recorded European to set foot on North American shores; and

WHEREAS, a statue of Leif Erikson, originally unveiled at the Seattle World’s Fair in 1962, has been refurbished and is ready to stand on the Seattle shoreline for another 45 years; replicas of Seattle’s statue have been given to Norway and Greenland; and

WHEREAS, the Leif Erikson International Foundation, working with the Port of Seattle, has created a public plaza with rune stones bearing the names of over 800 immigrants from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden; and

WHEREAS, On October 7, 2007, Scandinavian Americans and their families will join together to witness the unveiling of the refurbished statue and to celebrate the creation of Leif Erikson Plaza;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GREGORY J. NICKELS, Mayor of the City of Seattle, do hereby proclaim October 7, 2007 to be

SCANDINAVIAN HERITAGE DAY

in Seattle, and I encourage residents to join me in celebrating and recognizing the contributions of Scandinavian Americans to the progress and charm of our city.

GREG NICKELS
Mayor