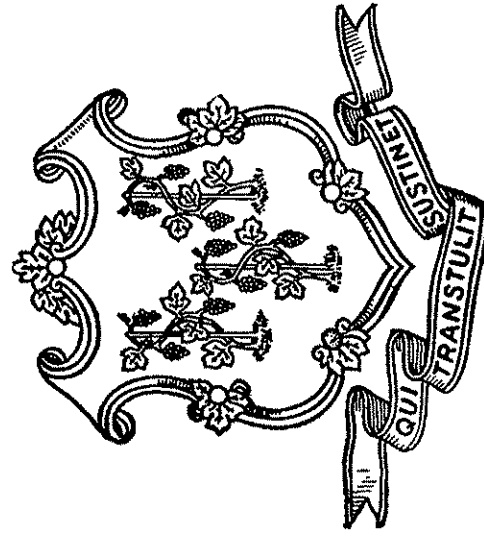


**State of**



**Connecticut**

By Her Excellency **M. JODI RELL**, Governor: a

# PROCLAMATION

The stirring and colorful sagas of medieval Iceland and Norway offer great insight into the Viking cultures that once flourished in the Scandinavian region. One of these exciting tales is the Saga of Eric the Red. This chronicle is of special interest because it relates to the voyage of Leif Erikson, which is believed to be the first journey by a European to American shores.

Born in Iceland, Leif Erikson, son of the notorious Eric the Red, visited the Norwegian King Olaf Tryggvason and served among his retainers. In the late 990's, the King sent Erikson, then age 21, to undertake a mission to proclaim Christianity in Greenland, which at that time was a part of the Norse Kingdom.

In 1001, Erikson boldly sailed his ship through the unknown northern seas, determined to fulfill the King's command. However, a violent storm threw his vessel off course, and he arrived instead on unfamiliar land.

The Viking sailor and his companions surveyed the land and set up camp for the winter. The new area proved to be one of great beauty and abundant natural resources. Wild grapes were so plentiful that Erikson named the region "Vinland — Land of Meadows."

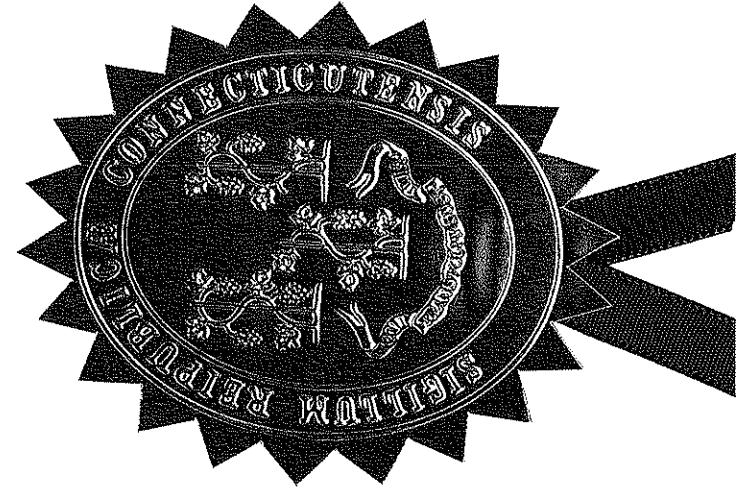
With the advent of spring, Erikson and his crew set sail for home with a full cargo and exciting tales of their new discovery. Historians have long debated the location of Erikson's "Vinland." Present-day Nova Scotia, Massachusetts and Newfoundland have all been suggested as possible sites.

In honor of his achievements and to commemorate the Scandinavian people and their culture and to provide tribute to the explorations of the Vikings in accordance with Connecticut laws, I, M. Jodi Rell, Governor of the State of Connecticut, do hereby proclaim October 9, 2008, to be

## LEIF ERIKSON DAY

in the State of Connecticut. I urge schools throughout Connecticut to take special note of this day, so that the young citizens of our State may gain a greater appreciation of the contributions made by Leif Erikson toward the advancement of western civilization.

*Given under my hand and seal of the State at the Capitol, in Hartford, this first day of October, two thousand and eight and of the independence of the United States the two hundred and thirty-second.*



*M. Jodi Rell*  
by Her Excellency's Command

*[Signature]*  
Secretary of the State