



Executive Department
State of Idaho

The Office of the Governor
Proclamation

State Capitol
Boise

St. Valentin Berrio-Ochoa Remembrance Day

WHEREAS, Dennis Berriochoa Downes is an artist of international renown whose impressionistic work is historically significant and based on symbolism from the past; and

WHEREAS, the Berriochoa family is of Basque descent and has lived in Idaho for over 100 years; and

WHEREAS, the Berriochoa family has kept with reverence the story of Valentin Berrio-Ochoa who was born on February 14, 1827, in Elorrio (Vizcaya) province in Northern Spain, was ordained into the Dominican Order on June 14, 1851, and served as a missionary to the Philippines and the Bishop of Central Tonkin in Viet Nam until he was executed on November 1, 1861, for refusing to renounce Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, on June 19, 1988, St. Valentin Berrio-Ochoa was canonized by Pope John Paul II in an official event at the Vatican in Rome, Italy; and

WHEREAS, through family reunions, visits to Idaho, and participation in Jaialdi, Dennis Berriochoa Downes was inspired by his family to create a high-relief bronze sculpture of St. Valentin Berrio-Ochoa; and

WHEREAS, the sculpture was blessed by Cardinal Francis George of the Chicago Diocese, September 16, 2010, at St. Mary's University in Mundelein, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, Dennis Berriochoa Downes will donate the bronze sculpture of St. Valentin Berrio-Ochoa to the Basque Museum and Cultural Center in Boise, Idaho on July 29, 2011, and

WHEREAS, the Basque Museum and Cultural Center is the only Basque museum in the United States and it is desirable that the memory of St. Valentin Berrio-Ochoa be preserved at this remarkable institution; and

WHEREAS, the State of Idaho seeks to recognize the Berriochoa family and their contribution to Idaho History,

NOW, THEREFORE I, C.L. "Butch" Otter, Governor of the State of Idaho, do hereby proclaim that July 29, 2011 to be a

St. Valentin Berrio-Ochoa Remembrance Day

in Idaho.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Idaho at the Capitol in Boise on this 29th day of July in the year of our Lord two thousand and eleven and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred thirty-fifth and of the Statehood of Idaho the one hundred twenty-first.

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
GOVERNOR

BEN YSURSA
SECRETARY OF STATE