



2021 South Dakota Legislature

Senate Commemoration 825

*Introduced by: **Senators** Heinert and Schoenbeck*

1 **A LEGISLATIVE COMMEMORATION, Honoring and commending Barry LeBeau for a**
 2 **lifetime of service, advocacy, and his immeasurable contributions to the arts**
 3 **in South Dakota.**

4 WHEREAS, Barry LeBeau was born on January 9, 1951, and was immediately drawn to
 5 the arts; and

6 WHEREAS, Barry LeBeau was proud to be Lakota and a member of the Cheyenne River
 7 Sioux Tribe; and

8 WHEREAS, Barry had a long and successful career with music that started at an early age
 9 when he was playing drums for local bands that traveled the region; and

10 WHEREAS, after graduating from high school, Barry would first attend the University of
 11 California at Berkeley before returning home to South Dakota to attend Northern University
 12 and then the University of South Dakota, where he would become a member of the Alpha Tau
 13 Omega fraternity and build friendships that would last the rest of his life; and

14 WHEREAS, following college, Barry would go on to become a professional actor, speaker,
 15 and lobbyist; and

16 WHEREAS, while Barry started his distinguished acting career at home in Pierre, it would
 17 take him to Sioux Falls, Minneapolis, Custer State Park, and Los Angeles; and

18 WHEREAS, while traveling the country, Barry worked on several documentaries, including
 19 the award-winning short film "Ghost Dance," as well as finding himself as a narrator for
 20 "America's Great Indian Leaders" and "America's Great Indian Nations," but these weren't the
 21 only accolades that Barry would have—he also had film credits in "Yes, I am not Iktomi,"
 22 "Dust of War," and "Lakota Girls"; and

1 WHEREAS, following his career in front of and behind the camera, Barry went on to serve
2 on countless boards and councils for South Dakota arts organizations, often as president,
3 where he would use his talents to create the Lakota Music Project to foster a "deeper
4 understanding between white and American Indian cultures through peaceful, positive
5 collaboration"; and

6 WHEREAS, while Barry was always passionate about the arts, he was also a tireless
7 advocate for South Dakota's Indian Country and its people; and

8 WHEREAS, Barry left his mark as a longtime program administrator for the United Sioux
9 Tribes while also helping pass numerous pieces of legislation that furthered efforts to help
10 Indian Country; and

11 WHEREAS, Barry LeBeau will always be remembered for his advocacy, but also for the
12 relationships he built through his wit, booming voice, hearty laugh, and the twinkle in his eye,
13 and will forever be what people think of when someone says Barry LeBeau:

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT COMMEMORATED, by the Ninety-Sixth Legislature of the State
15 of South Dakota, that the legislature honors and commends Barry LeBeau for a lifetime of
16 accomplishments, advocacy, and service to the people of South Dakota.