



2022 South Dakota Legislature

Senate Commemoration 814

Introduced by: **Senator Foster**

1 **A LEGISLATIVE COMMEMORATION, recognizing Norma Rendon, Waciampi Win, for**
 2 **her life of honor, service, and leadership.**

3 WHEREAS, Norma Rendon grew up in the Oglala Sioux tribe with her grandparents Wallace
 4 and Millie Little, who taught her the importance of her language, her culture, her faith, and
 5 her traditions, and instilled in her a dedication to family and spirituality; and

6 WHEREAS, while attending the University of Colorado, Norma Rendon became an advocate
 7 for indigenous people and led organizational efforts that resulted in the renaming of Nichols
 8 Hall to Cheyenne Arapaho Hall; and

9 WHEREAS, Norma Rendon served as a bilingual director at the Porcupine School, spending
 10 many wonderful days talking and singing with the students in Lakota and teaching them the
 11 importance of service-to-community; as a drug and alcohol counselor for Anpetu Luta Otipi;
 12 as the director of victim services for the Oglala Sioux Tribe; as a shelter coordinator at
 13 Cangleska; and after obtaining a governmental grant, opened another domestic violence
 14 shelter in Kyle; and

15 WHEREAS, having helped countless community members overcome their personal
 16 challenges and life obstacles, Norma Rendon was awarded the Winyan Wasaka (Strong
 17 Woman) Society Award, and having developed a profound understanding of domestic violence
 18 issues, was appointed as the director of South Dakota's Coalition to End Domestic Violence
 19 and Sexual Assault; and

20 WHEREAS, Norma Rendon established a women's shelter in Rapid City, called Winyan
 21 Wicanyuonihan Oyanke--Where All Women Are Honored, to provide assistance and resources
 22 to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, sex trafficking, and elder abuse, and to the
 23 LGBTQIA+ community; and

1 WHEREAS, Norma Rendon's commitment to fighting for others continued with her efforts
2 to advocate for more law enforcement training and to assist in writing the Oglala Sioux Tribe's
3 Sex Trafficking Code, which was among the first in the nation; and

4 WHEREAS, Norma Rendon was chosen to be a legacy leader in the Spirit Aligned
5 Leadership Program because of her ability to elevate lives, lift voices, and provide resources,
6 knowledge, healing, strength, and balance for indigenous communities; and because of her
7 efforts to ensure that the younger indigenous women learn about giving back to their
8 communities and their responsibilities in living Wolakota—the Lakota people's sacred way of
9 life; and

10 WHEREAS, Norma Rendon, as a daughter, sister, tunwin--aunt, Ina—mother of seven,
11 unci—grandmother of twenty-two, and unci som--great grandmother of five, serves as a
12 shining example of how to be a good relative to those within her immediate family, how to
13 love and provide help to those in her extended communal family, and how to encourage and
14 empower future generations and imbue them with the spirituality and culture awareness
15 necessary to promote Native American values:

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT COMMEMORATED, by the Ninety-Seventh Legislature of the
17 State of South Dakota, that Norma Rendon has led a life of honor and service, valiantly
18 standing up for her rights and those of her people and exemplifying true leadership in ways
19 that positively impact the lives of so many people and will continue to do so for generations
20 yet to come.