



2022 South Dakota Legislature

Senate Commemoration 818

Introduced by: **Senator** Heinert

1 **A LEGISLATIVE COMMEMORATION, Recognizing and honoring the legacy of Tom**
2 **Brady, one of football's greatest quarterbacks of all time, upon his retirement**
3 **from the National Football League.**

4 WHEREAS, born in San Matteo, California in 1977, Tom Brady showed an early inclination
5 toward a love of football. At the young age of four, Brady witnessed Joe Montana of the San
6 Francisco 49ers throw the winning touchdown, which would quickly become known as "The
7 Catch," to Dwight Clark to beat the Dallas Cowboys in the 1981 NFC Championship. Brady
8 would later refer to Joe Montana as a major inspiration, going so far as to call him his idol;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Tom Brady showed immense tenacity toward his goals of being a successful
11 quarterback. Initially, Brady was not good enough to start on his high school's JV football
12 team with a 0-8 losing record that hadn't scored a touchdown all year. Through dedication
13 and perseverance, Brady managed to make the team, quickly drawing attention from
14 recruiting agents in his senior year and winning All State and All Far West honors alongside
15 his team's MVP Award; and

16 WHEREAS, Tom Brady would once again prove his determination during his college football
17 career. Through setbacks and limitations, Brady persevered, meeting with Michigan's
18 assistant athletic director Greg Hardon weekly to work on skill formation and performance.
19 His hard work paid off when, in his junior year, Brady broke multiple University of Michigan
20 records, including most pass attempts and completions in a season; and

21 WHEREAS, despite Tom Brady's success at Michigan, he was a lightly regarded prospect
22 coming out of college and was only chosen in the sixth round of the 2000 NFL draft by the
23 New England Patriots, once again setting Brady up to defy expectations set for him, only this
24 time he would shatter them; and

1 WHEREAS, by his retirement, Tom Brady would go on to become the most statistically
2 successful, winningest quarterback in NFL history. Brady obliterated records set by other
3 prominent quarterbacks. Holding a total of 278 wins, Brady is the only quarterback to win
4 200 regular season games, and his 35 post-season victories are more than double the next
5 highest-ranking quarterback's. Brady is the only NFL quarterback to win all 16 games in a
6 regular season, is one of only four others who have defeated all 32 NFL teams, has the most
7 Pro Bowl selections of NFL history, and his selection as the NFL's MVP in 2010 is the only time
8 the selection committee has voted unanimously on a player. Furthermore, Brady's seven
9 Super Bowl titles put him at the top of the pack, winning more Super Bowls than any other
10 individual player AND more than any NFL franchise. Having played in ten Super Bowls, Brady
11 has been in more Super Bowls than every NFL franchise other than the Patriots. Brady is also
12 one of only two players to have won a Super Bowl title for multiple franchises with six titles
13 won for the New England Patriots and one for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers; and

14 WHEREAS, Tom Brady's feats of athleticism don't just put him at the top of the NFL, but
15 also propel him to the upper echelons of the greatest players of all sports. With similar
16 statistics as emblematic icons like Wayne Gretsky, Mickey Mantle, Babe Ruth, and Michael
17 Jordan, Tom Brady will go down in the annals of American sports as one of the giants that
18 walked amongst us; and

19 WHEREAS, Tom Brady represents so many of the values of every day South Dakotans
20 such as hard work, perseverance, and a strong, competitive spirit:

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT COMMEMORATED, by the Ninety-Seventh Legislature of the
22 State of South Dakota, Tom Brady's multitude of broken records, his seven Super Bowl titles,
23 and his ascendency to the position of the greatest quarterback the NFL has seen in its long
24 and storied history.