



2022 South Dakota Legislature

House Commemoration 8019

Introduced by: **Representative Miskimins**

1 **A LEGISLATIVE COMMEMORATION, Celebrating Mitchell High School's show choir,**
2 **Friend de Coup.**

3 WHEREAS, Mitchell High School hired Jeff Gemar as its vocal music director, who
4 introduced show choir to Mitchell and the state of South Dakota in 1984, establishing a choir
5 soon to be known as Friend de Coup, or "friends take over" in French, in honor of Jason
6 Kaemingk, a member of the choir who tragically lost his life in a pedestrian-car accident; and

7 WHEREAS, Friend de Coup has successfully and consistently competed against other choirs
8 at the local, regional, and national level, despite being the only competitive show choir at
9 Mitchell High School, a school with an average enrollment of seven-to-eight hundred students,
10 competing against schools across the country with enrollments many times larger; and

11 WHEREAS, Friend de Coup finished its first ever undefeated show choir season in 2021,
12 which was capped off by the first-ever Virtual National Championship held by
13 Showchoirlive.com, and continues to be successful to start its 2022 competition season:

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT COMMEMORATED, by the Ninety-Seventh Legislature of the
15 State of South Dakota, that Friend de Coup be honored and congratulated on its 38 years of
16 musical excellence and competitive success.