



2023 South Dakota Legislature

Senate Commemoration 812

Introduced by: **Senator Wiik**

1 **A LEGISLATIVE COMMEMORATION, To honor and celebrate the life of Cecil Richard**
2 **Wiarda.**

3 WHEREAS, Cecil Richard Wiarda was born October 16, 1921, to Wilhelmina Markus
4 Gleysteen Wiarda and Richard Simon Wiarda in Alcester, SD; and

5 WHEREAS, Cecil graduated from Castlewood High School, Castlewood, SD, in 1941. Cecil
6 joined the Army in 1942. He was honorably discharged in March 1946, as a Sergeant of the
7 972nd Signal Corp; and

8 WHEREAS, Cecil met the love of his life, Bernice (Bee) Fischer from Roscoe, SD, while he
9 was attending radio school for the Army in Aberdeen, SD. They were united in marriage on
10 September 11, 1943, in Sacramento, CA, shortly before he was shipped out for Army service
11 in Hawaii; and

12 WHEREAS, Cecil and Bee later moved to a farm west of Castlewood, SD, and raised a
13 family of five children, including Sally Kemink of Poughkeepsie, NY; Julie Bragg of Wellington,
14 OH; Jeannie Odenbach of Burke, SD; Richard Wiarda of Castlewood, SD; and Robert Wiarda
15 of Dell Rapids, SD; and have twelve grandchildren and twenty-three great-grandchildren; and

16 WHEREAS, Cecil grew potatoes, corn, and grain. He also raised hogs and Holstein cattle
17 from 1946 to 1976; and

18 WHEREAS, Cecil and Bee moved to Castlewood, SD, in 2000. Cecil enjoyed playing
19 Pinochle in his retirement; and

20 WHEREAS, Cecil Wiarda has been a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Castlewood
21 since childhood and an American Legion member for 77 years:

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT COMMEMORATED, by the Ninety-Eighth Legislature of the State
23 of South Dakota, that the Legislature celebrates the life of Cecil Richard Wiarda.