



2023 South Dakota Legislature

House Commemoration 8020

Introduced by: **Representative Blare**

1 **A LEGISLATIVE COMMEMORATION, Celebrating the life, legacy, and**
2 **accomplishments of "Big" Tom Olson.**

3 WHEREAS, "Big" Tom Olson was a well-liked and cherished figure in Pierre and specifically
4 at the state capitol. Tom opened multiple restaurants in Pierre, where he was admired for his
5 big heart and bigger personality, earning the respect and friendship of many in the
6 community; and

7 WHEREAS, Tom was born on August 23, 1949, in Montevideo, Minnesota. Tom and his
8 family moved to Aberdeen, where he graduated from Aberdeen Central High School. Shortly
9 after, Tom served in the Navy during the Vietnam War. After his military service, Tom went
10 to Northern State University, where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in business. After
11 graduation, he moved to Illinois where he met his wife, Jill Bolton. Tom and Jill moved several
12 times across the country before finally settling in Pierre. Tom opened and ran the Outpost
13 Lodge north of Pierre, and Big Tom's on Sioux Avenue. Tom and Jill raised four wonderful
14 children in Pierre; and

15 WHEREAS, Tom operated the Capitol Café for several years before passing the restaurant
16 on to his daughter, Kalie, who has maintained the business for five years with help from her
17 brother, Tieg; and

18 WHEREAS, Tom could always be seen with a handlebar mustache and a smile. Though his
19 children continue to carry on his prestigious legacy at his restaurants, "Big" Tom will be
20 forever missed as a community member of Pierre and at the state capitol;

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT COMMEMORATED, by the Ninety-Eighth Legislature of the State
22 of South Dakota, that "Big" Tom Olson lived a celebrated and happy life and will be dearly
23 missed by the citizens of Pierre and those who knew him.