



2024 South Dakota Legislature

Senate Commemoration 803

Introduced by: **Senator Wheeler**

1 **A LEGISLATIVE COMMEMORATION, Honoring the outstanding military service of**
2 **Major General Michael L. Place.**

3 WHEREAS, Major General Michael L. Place, a native of Huron, is retiring as the Chief of
4 Staff and Deputy Commanding General (Support), U.S. Army Medical Command & Office of
5 the Surgeon General after exemplifying courage, determination, and dedication in 36 years
6 of military service; and

7 WHEREAS, Major General Place received his undergraduate degree in Psychology from
8 John Hopkins University in 1987 as a Distinguished Military Graduate, his Medical Degree in
9 General Medicine from the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences in 1991, and his
10 Masters in National Resource Strategy from the Dwight D. Eisenhower School for National
11 Security and Resource Strategy in 2014, and is board certified by the American Board of
12 Family Medicine and a member of the Order of Military Medical Merit; and

13 WHEREAS, Major General Place completed assignments as regimental surgeon for the
14 75th Ranger Regiment, deploying to Operation Uphold Democracy in Haiti; as instructor and
15 director, medical operations branch, Leader Training Center, Army Medical Department Center
16 and School, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, becoming the first physician director of the Army
17 Medical Department captains career courses; as staff family physician, Evans Army
18 Community Hospital, Fort Carson, Colorado; as Commander, Medical Task Force 10,
19 Stabilization Force 5, during the Kosovo Air Campaign; and as 101st Airborne Division (Air
20 Assault) division surgeon, Fort Campbell, Kentucky, deploying to Operation Iraqi Freedom;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, Major General Place commanded the 10th Combat Support Hospital, which
23 included a yearlong deployment to Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom as a
24 medical task force commander; served as deputy commander for clinical services, Blanchfield
25 Army Community Hospital, Fort Campbell, Kentucky; and served as the Commanding General,

1 Regional Health Command-Atlantic, Fort Belvoir, Virginia, the largest and most diverse facility
2 within the US Army Medical Command; and

3 WHEREAS, Major General Place served as the Senior Medical Advisor in the Army
4 Secretariat; was assigned as the Assistant Deputy for Health Affairs in the Office of the
5 Assistant Secretary of the Army (Manpower and Reserve Affairs); commanded Madigan Army
6 Medical Center on Joint Base Lewis McChord, Washington; served as the Deputy Commanding
7 General Regional Health Command-Pacific and Director, Hawaii Multi-Service Market; and
8 most recently, served as the Commanding General, 18th Medical Command (Deployment
9 Support) at Fort Shafter, Hawaii, and

10 WHEREAS, Major General Place has been awarded and decorated with the Distinguished
11 Service Medal, the Legion of Merit (four oak leaf clusters), the Bronze Star (one oak leaf
12 cluster), the Meritorious Service Medal (five oak leaf clusters), the Expert Field Medical Badge,
13 the Flight Surgeon Badge, the Army Parachutist Badge, and the Army Staff Identification
14 Badge:

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT COMMEMORATED, by the Ninety-Ninth Legislature of the State
16 of South Dakota, that Major General Michael L. Place, on the occasion of his retirement, has
17 led a celebrated career of continuous achievement and devotion to duty.