



2024 South Dakota Legislature

House Commemoration 8010

Introduced by: **Representatives** Reisch and Mills and **Senator** Crabtree

1 **A LEGISLATIVE COMMEMORATION, Celebrating the life of Robert "Bob" Montross of**
2 **De Smet, South Dakota.**

3 WHEREAS, Robert "Bob" Leroy Montross was a relentless advocate of the agriculture and
4 beef industries in South Dakota, as well as being actively involved in community development
5 and fundraising efforts in the De Smet area; and

6 WHEREAS, Bob Montross served his community on the De Smet Township Board, where
7 he and the board started the Lake Thompson Revitalization Project; on the De Smet Cemetery
8 Association, where Bob was an officer; on the Kingsbury County Cattlemen of South Dakota,
9 of which Bob was a founding member; and on the nonprofit organization Beef Bucks, of which
10 Bob was a founding member and instrumental in the organization's partnership with the
11 television show Wheel of Fortune; and

12 WHEREAS, Bob Montross was an organizer and fundraiser for the construction of the De
13 Smet Event and Wellness Center, a project recognized by the Bush Foundation; and

14 WHEREAS, Bob used his contacts in the beef industry to support the late Gene Abdallah's
15 South Dakota Law Enforcement Dinner and Children's Charity Fundraiser, and initiated an
16 ongoing effort to provide Beef Bucks to the South Dakota Highway Patrol for distribution to
17 law enforcement families in need during the holidays; and

18 WHEREAS, Bob's work as a member of the Kingsbury County Cattlemen Association of
19 South Dakota was instrumental in initiating the South Dakota legislative beef luncheon at the
20 South Dakota Capitol Rotunda; and

21 WHEREAS, Bob's agriculture and beef industry advocacy efforts earned him and his wife,
22 Nancy, the 2023 Acts of Excellence Award from the South Dakota Hall of Fame, as well as
23 recognition from local, regional, and national beef associations, numerous agriculture
24 publications, and South Dakota State University; and

1 WHEREAS, Bob was a founding member of the Legendary Highway 14 Tower Trail Project,
2 working with federal, state, and local agencies to help develop trails and a viewing tower near
3 the shores of the legendary Silver Lake made famous in the Little Town on the Prairie books
4 authored by Laura Ingalls Wilder; and

5 WHEREAS, Bob Montross earned the Touchstone Energy Cooperative "Who Powers You"
6 award for community commitment and work on the Legendary Highway 14 Tower Trail
7 Project:

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT COMMEMORATED, by the Ninety-Ninth Legislature of the State
9 of South Dakota, that Robert "Bob" Montross lived a life worthy of honor and deserves to be
10 celebrated as an outstanding South Dakotan who has made a lasting impact on the state's
11 beef and agriculture industries, as well as in the De Smet area.