



2025 South Dakota Legislature

House Commemoration 8001

Introduced by: **Representatives** Weisgram, Emery, Moore, Venhuizen, and Walburg and **Senators** Crabtree and Perry

1 **A LEGISLATIVE COMMEMORATION, Honoring Donna Leslie of the South Dakota**
 2 **Retailers Association for outstanding service to the business community.**

3 WHEREAS, Donna Leslie has been a leading staff member of the South Dakota Retailers
 4 Association since being hired as communications director on September 12, 1988; and

5 WHEREAS, Donna has worked for four executive directors, three dozen board presidents,
 6 and more than one hundred fifty board members during nearly thirty-seven years of service;
 7 and

8 WHEREAS, Donna has written virtually every article in nearly three hundred issues of the
 9 Retail Prophet magazine, which provides important, timely information to thousands of South
 10 Dakota businesses; and

11 WHEREAS, Donna has “kept an eye” on thirty-seven legislative sessions for the South
 12 Dakota Retailers Association and produced more than one hundred sixty issues of the
 13 Legislative Bulletin, while compiling each edition of the popular Legislative Lineup guide to
 14 the legislative session; and

15 WHEREAS, Donna has been the historian and information hub of the South Dakota
 16 Retailers Association, helping guide its growth from two thousand members in 1988 to four
 17 thousand today; and

18 WHEREAS, Donna has skillfully managed the South Dakota Retailers Association’s
 19 scholarship program, which has awarded two hundred eighty scholarships totaling more than
 20 two hundred fifty thousand dollars; and

21 WHEREAS, Donna’s incomparable fashion sense has translated into bronze as the guiding
 22 force in dressing the statue of Governor Robert S. Vessey outside the Retailers Association
 23 office; and

1 WHEREAS, Donna is the longest-serving employee during the one hundred twenty-eight
2 years the South Dakota Retailers Association has served this state; and

3 WHEREAS, the press release announcing her hire stated that, "Hiring Donna Leslie is a
4 positive step that will help us in providing better information to our members and the public
5 as well," and she has more than lived up to that billing; and

6 WHEREAS, after consuming approximately forty-eight thousand two-hundred eighty-five
7 cups of coffee during her tenure, Donna intends to retire in May 2025;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT COMMEMORATED, by the One Hundredth Legislature of the State
9 of South Dakota, that Donna Leslie has made a positive difference in the lives of many South
10 Dakotans by helping make the South Dakota Retailers Association one of the country's largest
11 and most effective business organizations.