

South Dakota Legislature



Senate Commemoration 801

Introduced by: **Senators** Deibert, Crabtree, Duhamel, Larson, Nelson, Perry, Pischke, Rohl, and Zikmund and **Representatives** Fitzgerald, Duffy, Emery, Greenfield, Kull, Moore, Muckey, Venhuizen, and Wittman

A LEGISLATIVE COMMEMORATION, Recognizing and expressing gratitude to South Dakota Wildland Fire and Black Hills volunteer fire departments for their quick response and cooperation on Black Hills wildfires.

WHEREAS, South Dakota Wildland Fire, an agency of the Department of Public Safety, was created on July 1, 2001, to work closely with federal agencies, volunteer and municipal fire departments, other states, and South Dakota residents, to deliver fire management services within the state and in other states, as part of a national fire management system; and

WHEREAS, Wildland Fire employs engine personnel, hand crews, fuel mitigation technicians, administrative support, and additional seasonal firefighters to fulfill its mission of preventing, mitigating, and suppressing wildfires; and

WHEREAS, the volunteer firefighters in the Black Hills area sacrifice time with their loved ones to train and prepare each year for fire season; and

WHEREAS, South Dakota Wildland Fire provides solid and consistent leadership to the numerous volunteer fire departments in and around the Black Hills to protect people and property; and

WHEREAS, South Dakota Wildland Fire and volunteer fire departments responded to two hundred and fifty-four fires in the Black Hills area in 2024, and their quick action kept these fires small, burning only two thousand nine hundred sixty-five acres; and

South Dakota Legislature



WHEREAS, this quick response to fires would not be possible without Black Hills volunteer firefighters, their cooperative spirit, and their commitment to protecting their friends and neighbors;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT COMMEMORATED, by the One Hundredth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, that South Dakota Wildland Fire and the Black Hills volunteer firefighters consistently exhibit cooperation, commitment, and courage in protecting South Dakota's residents, visitors, livelihoods, and natural treasures.

