

South Dakota Legislature



House Commemoration 8002

Introduced by: **Representatives** Randolph, Baxter, Derby, Duffy, Goodwin, Jensen (Phil), Ladner, Massie, Mulally, and Uhre-Balk and **Senator** Blanc

A LEGISLATIVE COMMEMORATION, Honoring the life and service of former Representative Dr. Donald Dean Van Etten.

WHEREAS, Dr. Donald Dean Van Etten passed away on September 23, 2024, at the age of ninety; and

WHEREAS, Don was born on March 10, 1934, to Amos and Ruth Van Etten in Orange City, Iowa. Don completed medical school at the University of Iowa School of Medicine, Iowa City, Iowa, and his surgical internship and residency were completed at Butterworth Hospital in Grand Rapids, Michigan; and

WHEREAS, during the summer of 1957, after his junior year of college, Don met and married the love of his life, Verla Jean Vanderbush. They married in 1957, and Verla joined him, and thereafter settled in Iowa City, where Verla was employed as a nurse at the VA Medical Center; and

WHEREAS, upon completion of his surgical training, Don and Verla followed God's call for missionary work in the Middle East, where they resided with their four children for three years; and

WHEREAS, after returning to the United States, Don joined a surgical group in Mason City, Iowa, where he served for ten years, and thereafter, being drawn to solo practice, moved his family to Rapid City, South Dakota, where he served for twenty years; and

WHEREAS, upon retirement from his surgical practice at the age of sixty-five, Don served in the South Dakota House of Representatives from 2001-2008; and

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WHEREAS, during Don's legislative tenure, he served as the chair of the House Health and Human Services Committee, and as a member of the House Taxation Committee;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT COMMEMORATED, by the One Hundredth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, that Dr. Donald Dean Van Etten gave so much of his life and himself to the people of this state, and in return, the Legislature extends sincerest condolences to his family.

