



2025 South Dakota Legislature

Senate Commemoration 817

Introduced by: **Senator Larson**

1 **A LEGISLATIVE COMMEMORATION, Honoring the life of former legislator and**
2 **educator Jan Nicolay for her service to this state.**

3 WHEREAS, Jan Nicolay, an educator and state legislator, died on May 18, 2024, in Sioux
4 Falls at the age of 82; and

5 WHEREAS, Jan Nicolay graduated from what is now Northern State University in Aberdeen
6 in 1963 and went on to earn a master of science degree in education from South Dakota State
7 University in 1971; and

8 WHEREAS, Jan Nicolay was the first female high school principal in the city of Sioux Falls
9 when she took on that role at Washington High School in 1987; and

10 WHEREAS, Jan Nicolay was elected to the South Dakota House of Representatives in 1982,
11 representing Minnehaha County as a Republican until 1996; and

12 WHEREAS, Jan Nicolay was a trailblazer for women in South Dakota politics in those years,
13 -serving as the first woman co-chair of the Joint Appropriations Committee from 1987 through
14 1992; and

15 WHEREAS, Jan Nicolay led Southeast Technical Institute on an interim basis, and also
16 served four years on the South Dakota Board of Education Standards; and

17 WHEREAS, Jan Nicolay championed other community causes such as the Outdoor Campus
18 of the Department of Game, Fish and Parks in Sioux Falls;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT COMMEMORATED, by the One Hundredth Legislature of the State
20 of South Dakota, that the late Jan Nicolay was an outstanding example of an educator and
21 citizen lawmaker, bringing a lifetime of experience in her chosen field to the South Dakota
22 Legislature, even as her expertise grew beyond education to include important work helping
23 to oversee funding for the state's needs.

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