

HOUSE COMMEMORATION NO. 1020

Introduced by: Representatives Ring, Bartling, Bolin, Cronin, Ecklund, Feinstein, Gibson, Gosch, Hagggar (Don), Hajek, Hawks, Hawley, Johns, Killer, Kirschman, Lust, Mickelson, Russell, Stevens, Werner, and Westra and Senators Jones (Tom), Buhl O'Donnell, Frerichs, Heineman (Phyllis), Hunhoff (Jean), Kirkeby, Lucas, Novstrup (Al), Peters, Sutton, and Welke

A LEGISLATIVE COMMEMORATION, Commending and honoring Ms. Bethany Buell Firsick, 2013 National Champion Pole Vaulter.

WHEREAS, track and field athlete Bethany Buell Firsick of the University of South Dakota became the first National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I National Champion in school history and in the history of the state of South Dakota at the NCAA Outdoor Track Championships in June 2013 by clearing 14 feet, 7.25 inches on her last jump, despite her struggle with a torn shoulder ligament throughout the outdoor season; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Firsick was named the Summit League Outdoor Field Athlete of the Year in both 2012 and 2013; Summit League Athlete of the Month for May and June 2013; and Athlete of the Week four times throughout 2013. She has earned four All-America honors and is a five-time conference champion, including her win at the 2013 Summit League Indoor Championships. She is the USD school record holder for both the indoor (14-5.5) and outdoor (14-7.5) pole vault; and

WHEREAS, in the classroom, Ms. Firsick carries a near-perfect GPA; was named to the Capital One All-America track and field/cross country first team by the College Sports Information Directors of America; and was named Scholar Field Athlete of the Year by the U. S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT COMMEMORATED, by the Eighty-Ninth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, that Ms. Bethany Buell Firsick be commended and honored for her outstanding athletic and academic performances.

