
South Dakota Legislature



Senate Commemoration 803

Introduced by: **Senators** Deibert, Crabtree, Duhamel, Hulse, Perry, and Reed and **Representatives** Fitzgerald, Goodwin, and Hughes

A LEGISLATIVE COMMEMORATION honoring the city of Deadwood on its 150th anniversary.

WHEREAS, established in 1876 during the Black Hills Gold Rush, Deadwood has played a significant role in American history, and with its 150 years of legendary stories, dynamic culture, and unwavering spirit, the city has captured the imagination of generations; and

WHEREAS, Deadwood originated as an illegal settlement on land that had been officially granted by the 1868 Treaty of Fort Laramie to the Lakota people, but despite these outlaw beginnings, the town quickly evolved into a bustling frontier community, and gold seekers, entrepreneurs, and notorious characters such as Wild Bill Hickok and Calamity Jane flocked to Deadwood, transforming the city into a symbol of the American West's promises and perils; and

WHEREAS, over the course of 150 years, Deadwood has journeyed from a rough-and-tumble mining town to a cherished historic destination with a meticulously preserved, historic main street and iconic saloons; and

WHEREAS, it also hosts annual events to keep the spirit of the Old West alive, as visitors from around the globe travel to Deadwood to witness reenactments, try their luck at casinos, explore museums, and enjoy the rugged, scenic beauty of the Black Hills region; and

WHEREAS, Deadwood's legacy extends beyond its tales of gold, guns, and grit; and

WHEREAS, its story is one of resilience, transformation, and the enduring magnetism of the Western frontier; and

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WHEREAS, as Deadwood looks back on its 150 years, the city honors its vibrant past and reaffirms its ongoing dedication to historical preservation, community spirit, and hospitality;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT COMMEMORATED, by the One Hundred First Legislature of the State of South Dakota, that the legislature invites all citizens of South Dakota to join in recognizing the city of Deadwood's 150th anniversary, and celebrating Deadwood's heritage and continued contributions to the state and nation.

