



## 2026 South Dakota Legislature

# House Commemoration 8027

Introduced by: **Representative** Pourier

1 **A LEGISLATIVE COMMEMORATION celebrating the life and service of Barbara Dull**  
2 **Knife.**

3 WHEREAS, Barbara Dull Knife, whose Lakota name, Mah'piya Keyaké Wiŋ, means Cloud  
4 Shield Woman, is known for her service, generosity, and quiet strength, serving for seventeen  
5 years as a child welfare advocate and victim witness advocate with the United States  
6 Attorney's Office in Rapid City; and

7 WHEREAS, in retirement, Barbara Dull Knife returned home and founded Wakanyeja  
8 Gluwitayan Otipi, Gathering Our Children Home, the only emergency safe house for children  
9 up to twelve years old on the Pine Ridge Reservation; and

10 WHEREAS, Barbara Dull Knife served two terms as an Oglala District Council member on  
11 the Oglala Sioux Tribal Council, and served as the elected treasurer for the Oglala District  
12 from 2020 to 2022; and

13 WHEREAS, Barbara Dull Knife was a founding board member of Taku Škaŋ Škaŋ  
14 Wasakliyapi: Global Institute for Traditional Sciences; and

15 WHEREAS, Barbara Dull Knife is recognized as an elder knowledge keeper and cultural  
16 teacher, advising on protocols for ceremonies, ancestral teachings, and the Lakota value of  
17 wawoptetusni, or steadfast strength and courage in defense of children and community;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT COMMEMORATED, by the One Hundred First Legislature of the  
19 State of South Dakota, that Barbara Dull Knife is an outstanding example of service,  
20 compassion, spiritual leadership, and commitment to Lakota children and others whose lives  
21 she has touched.