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# South Dakota Legislature



## House Commemoration 8022

Introduced by: **Representatives** Pourier, Emery, Gosch, Moore, Muckey, Novstrup, and Shorma and **Senators** Foster, Duhamel, and Perry

**A LEGISLATIVE COMMEMORATION recognizing the achievements, leadership, and lifelong public service of Cecelia Fire Thunder.**

WHEREAS, Cecelia Fire Thunder has devoted her life to advocacy, education, and leadership within her Oglala Lakota community, blazing a trail for Indigenous women in governance and public health; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, Cecelia Fire Thunder became the first woman elected to serve as president of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, setting a new milestone for women's leadership in tribal government; and

WHEREAS, throughout her career, Cecelia Fire Thunder has been an unwavering advocate for the self-determination, health, and wellbeing of Native peoples, notably as a registered nurse, health educator, and community organizer; and

WHEREAS, Cecelia Fire Thunder continues to inspire emerging leaders by demonstrating courage, integrity, and commitment to building bridges between tribal nations and this state; and

WHEREAS, her vision and advocacy embody the Lakota value of woohitika, or strength and bravery in service to one's people;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT COMMEMORATED, by the One Hundred First Legislature of the State of South Dakota, that Cecelia Fire Thunder deserves honor and recognition for her historic accomplishments, her lifelong advocacy for indigenous rights and women's empowerment, and her enduring contributions to public service within this state and Indian country.

