

South Dakota Legislature



House Commemoration 8003

*Introduced by: **Representatives** St John, Bordeaux, Haugaard, and Pourier and **Senators** Foster, Heinert, Phil Jensen, Russell, and Youngberg at the request of the Committee on State-Tribal Relations*

ENTITLED A LEGISLATIVE COMMEMORATION, Recognizing the thirtieth anniversary of Native American Day.

WHEREAS, Governor George S. Mickelson, with the advice and consent of the state's tribal leaders, declared 1990 as a year of reconciliation in South Dakota; and

WHEREAS, in 1990 the state of South Dakota was beginning its second century as a state; and

WHEREAS, Governor Mickelson recognized that the time of statehood was a sad time for Native Americans because two tragic events, the killing of Sitting Bull and the Wounded Knee massacre, occurred just thirteen months after South Dakota became a state; and

WHEREAS, strife between Indian and non-Indian cultures in South Dakota has, since statehood, been of grave concern and continues to be of grave concern; and

WHEREAS, any improvement in cultural understanding in the past can be attributed to the work of the Indian and non-Indian people of South Dakota who have striven to understand our differences and to educate those of us who have grown up together but who have never made the effort to bridge the cultural gap; and

WHEREAS, a statewide effort to develop trust and respect between Indians and non-Indians can, and must, include participation from the private and the public sector, from churches and church associations, from tribal and state governments, and from individuals, communities, and community organizations; and

WHEREAS, mutuality of interest provides a sound basis for constructive change, given a shared commitment to achieving our goals of equal opportunity, social justice, and economic prosperity; and

WHEREAS, by celebrating our cultural differences and drawing on those differences for the betterment of all, we can create a new respect among our citizens; and

WHEREAS, Governor Mickelson in his proclamation called for our citizens, both Indian and non-Indian to look for every opportunity to lay aside our fears and mistrust, to build friendships, to join together and take part in our shared cultural activities, to learn about one another, to have fun with one another, and to begin a process of mutual respect and understanding; and

WHEREAS, a Native American Day parade will be held in Pierre on Monday, October 12, 2020; and

WHEREAS, events like the Native American Day parade are an opportunity for tribes to take control of their history by telling their own story:

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT COMMEMORATED, by the Ninety-Fifth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, that the Legislature recognizes the thirtieth anniversary of Native American Day and invites everyone to attend the Native American Day parade in Pierre on Monday, October 12, 2020.

