



2020 South Dakota Legislature

House Commemoration 8032

*Introduced by: **Representative** Jamie Smith and **Senator** Heinert*

1 **A LEGISLATIVE COMMEMORATION, Honoring Dennis Jerome Spotted Tail, Sr., for**
 2 **his admirable service to the United States Army and 82nd Airborne Division.**

3 WHEREAS, Dennis Spotted Tail passed on May 1, 2019. His Indian name was Wiyan Ob
 4 Woglaka, translating to Talks with Women As he wished, he passed in his home surrounded
 5 by his loved ones; and

6 WHEREAS, , Dennis Spotted Tail was born on December 9, 1930. Dennis Spotted Tail later
 7 happily married his wife, Pearl Kills In Sight. Together they raised ten children; Dennis
 8 "Charlie" Spotted Tail Jr., Donald "Sey" Spotted Tail, Carol James Spotted Tail, Arlene "Babe"
 9 Spotted Tail-Rappold, Raymond Spotted Tail, Gale Spotted Tail, Cecelia "Biz" Spotted Tail,
 10 Lila Kills In Sight, Caroline "Tick" Spotted Tail, and Lenora Spotted Tail; and

11 WHEREAS, Dennis Spotted Tail resided with his family in Parmelee, South Dakota, located
 12 on the Rosebud Indian Reservation, where he was a proud life member of John Guerure Jr.,
 13 American Legion Post 295; and

14 WHEREAS, Dennis Spotted Tail gave valorous service to the United States Army and to
 15 the 82nd Airborne Division, which he proudly affiliated to throughout his life; and

16 WHEREAS, Dennis Spotted Tail aspired to become a paratrooper at a very young age. He
 17 explained at a later age, "When I was seven years old my parents took me to a flight show
 18 with paratroopers in Winner, South Dakota. I watched airplanes drop paratroopers from the
 19 sky with parachutes and it was then that I knew I wanted to do this someday."; and

20 WHEREAS, Dennis Spotted Tail completed his basic training in Ft. Ord, California, at
 21 seventeen years old. He was persistent to reach his dream and worked tremendously to enlist
 22 in paratrooper school. He traveled back to his home in South Dakota to handle a family
 23 medical emergency. Upon the clearing of a blizzard, he went back to finish jump school and
 24 later graduated from paratrooper school; and

1 WHEREAS, Dennis Spotted Tail transferred to Ft. Bragg, North Carolina, in 1949. As the
2 Korean War began in 1950, he flew to Cuba for two weeks at Guantanamo Bay, then flew to
3 Puerto Rico, and went on to Vieque Island where he jumped onto this island. Dennis Spotted
4 Tail had forty-two successful jumps. He truly lived his dream:

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT COMMEMORATED, by the Ninety-Fifth Legislature of the State
6 of South Dakota, that the Legislature commemorates Dennis Spotted Tail for his service to
7 the United States Army and the 82nd Airborne Division.