

State of South Dakota

NINETY-SECOND SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2017

738Y0652

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1011

Introduced by: Representatives May, Ahlers, Bartling, Bordeaux, Dennert, Hawley, Lesmeister, Ring, Schoenfish, Smith, and Soli and Senators Nelson, Bolin, Frerichs, Heinert, Kennedy, Killer, Monroe, Nesiba, Netherton, and Sutton

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Recognizing and honoring Sitting Bull, Tatanka-Iyotanka,
2 a courageous warrior, statesman, dedicated leader, one of South Dakota's first ambassadors
3 to the world, and a man who remains an essential figure in South Dakota and United States
4 history.

5 WHEREAS, Sitting Bull was arguably one of the most powerful and famous of all Native
6 American chiefs, and he united the Sioux Tribes in their struggle for survival on the North
7 American Great Plains; and

8 WHEREAS, the expanding American nation shaped the struggles of Sitting Bull's life; and

9 WHEREAS, in 1868, he gained the respect of the Lakota people as both a leader and a
10 warrior and earned the title of Chief of the Lakota Nation; and

11 WHEREAS, during the mid-1870s, prospectors uncovered gold in the sacred Black Hills,
12 land recognized in the 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty; and

13 WHEREAS, the U.S. government abandoned the treaty and declared war on any native
14 tribes standing in their way, including the Lakota and the steadfast Sitting Bull; and



1 WHEREAS, Sitting Bull performed a sacred Sun Dance, slashed his arms in sacrifice, and
2 deprived himself of drinking water before announcing his vision in which they defeated the U.S.
3 Army; and

4 WHEREAS, in June 1876, a short time later, he defended the massive Sioux encampment
5 at Little Bighorn against an undermanned attacking General George Armstrong Custer and his
6 7th Calvary, securing a resounding victory for his people, but earning the anger of his enemies;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, the U.S. government increased its efforts to acquire control of the territory
9 from native tribes; and

10 WHEREAS, Sitting Bull retreated with his people to Canada for four years, avoiding the
11 U.S. government's pursuit; and

12 WHEREAS, when he returned to the Dakota Territory in 1881, he was captured and
13 imprisoned for two years; and

14 WHEREAS, in 1885, he teamed up with Annie Oakley and joined Buffalo Bill Cody's Wild
15 West Show, where he earned fifty dollars per week to ride once around the arena, but life on the
16 road became tiresome, so he returned to his people; and

17 WHEREAS, in 1889, Sitting Bull headed a Native American Ghost Dance ceremony, which
18 struck fear in authorities, who knew of his great power and influence; and

19 WHEREAS, on December 15, 1890, a group of Lakota police entered his home on the
20 Standing Rock Indian Reservation and dragged him out of his cabin; and

21 WHEREAS, a gunfight ensued and resulted in the slaying of Sitting Bull, the renowned
22 Lakota Chief; and

23 WHEREAS, a memorial is placed at the reported burial site of Sitting Bull near Mobridge,
24 South Dakota; and

1 WHEREAS, Sitting Bull lived his life without compromise and stayed true to the Native
2 American way of life as he fearlessly resisted the encroachment of the Dakota Territory by
3 performing acts as a daring warrior and an eloquent statesman; and

4 WHEREAS, the Native American people have served our country in times of peace and war,
5 while also striving for equal rights; and

6 WHEREAS, Native Americans serve in the U.S. military in greater numbers than any ethnic
7 group per capita and have since the revolution, even though the United States did not recognize
8 them as citizens until 1924; and

9 WHEREAS, the Native American Code Talkers proved essential to the United States
10 achieving victory in World Wars I and II; and

11 WHEREAS, countless additional Native Americans have fought for our freedoms we hold
12 dear; and

13 WHEREAS, twenty-seven Native Americans have earned the nation's highest military
14 honor, the Medal of Honor; and

15 WHEREAS, this demonstration of American patriotism, love of country and warrior spirit
16 can be appropriately attributed in part to the leadership example of one of South Dakota's most
17 famous sons, Sitting Bull:

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Ninety-
19 Second Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the South
20 Dakota Legislature does hereby posthumously remember and honor Sitting Bull, Tatanka-
21 Iyotanka, the legendary chief, statesman, and warrior, who bravely and selflessly defended his
22 people and their traditional way of life with all of his being; as well as the many South Dakota
23 Native Americans who continue to embody the spirit of one of South Dakota's most illustrious
24 native sons.