

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1004

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Recognizing Hot Springs as "The Veterans Town."

WHEREAS, Hot Springs was formerly called Minnekahta, which means warm waters in the Lakota language. The healing waters that were so valuable to Native Americans became the foundation for two of the greatest institutions to be built in Hot Springs; and

WHEREAS, Battle Mountain Sanitarium, now part of the Veterans Affairs Black Hills Health Care System, and the State Veterans Home have deep roots in the town of Hot Springs. In 1889, the year South Dakota was admitted to statehood, construction of the State Soldiers Home began; and

WHEREAS, South Dakota Senator Richard F. Pettigrew introduced a bill in the 54th Congress (1895-1897) for the erection and maintenance of the Northern Branch of National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers at Hot Springs. The National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic passed a resolution requesting Congress to establish a national home in Hot Springs. In May 1902, President Theodore Roosevelt signed a bill into law which provided for the home. In August of 1903, ground was broken for the sanitarium, now the Hot Springs VA Hospital; and

WHEREAS, the State Soldiers Home is now named The Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home, in honor of Michael Fitzmaurice, a former United States Army soldier and recipient of the United States military's highest decoration, the Medal of Honor, for his actions during the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, through its history of more than one hundred years, Hot Springs has become known as "The Veterans Town" because of the town's reputation for welcoming veterans to the community for care and treatment or as residents. Veterans have always had a special place in the hearts of the citizens of Hot Springs, and countless volunteer hours by the people of Hot Springs have been part of the success of the treatment and care of veterans in Hot Springs:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Eighty-Ninth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the city of Hot Springs is to be known and recognized as "The Veterans Town" as its citizens continue to include veterans and the veterans facilities in community healthcare functions, parades, and numerous other community events and in recognition of Hot Springs' long history of support for the veterans of this

state and nation.

Adopted by the House of Representatives,
Concurred in by the Senate,

January 24, 2014
January 29, 2014

Brian Gosch
Speaker of the House

Arlene Kvislen
Chief Clerk of the House

Matt Michels
President of the Senate

Jeannette Schipper
Secretary of the Senate