

State of South Dakota

EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2014

723V0478

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. **1004**

Introduced by: Representatives Verchio, Cammack, Gosch, Haggar (Jenna), Heinemann (Leslie), Hickey, Kopp, May, Novstrup (David), Qualm, Ring, Rounds, Rozum, Schrempp, Sly, Solum, Tyler, and Wick and Senators Rampelberg, Begalka, Kirkeby, and Welke

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

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

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

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



1 VA Hospital; and

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

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

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