

HOUSE COMMEMORATION NO. 1004

Introduced by: Representatives Cerny and Brooks and Senators Benson and Reedy

A LEGISLATIVE COMMEMORATION, Honoring the Veterans of Foreign Wars on the occasion of its Centennial.

WHEREAS, the Veterans of Foreign Wars originated in 1899 when veterans of the Spanish-American War banded together to help fellow veterans secure their rights for those who served their country, under the slogan "Honor the Dead by Helping the Living". The Veterans of Foreign Wars, which is America's oldest major overseas veterans organization, received its Congressional charter on May 28, 1936, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of South Dakota was organized in 1931; and

WHEREAS, today the two million members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States continue its proud heritage by providing assistance to veterans and their families in obtaining entitlements and benefits, advocating legislation on behalf of veterans, and serving the needs of our country; and

WHEREAS, service projects of the Veterans of Foreign Wars contribute more than fourteen million volunteer hours of service and donate over \$50 million dollars each year to benefit veterans hospitals, youth programs, patriotic education, environmental efforts, safety instruction, and thousands of local community activities, and provide more than \$2.7 million in college scholarships and other incentives to high school students across the nation:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT COMMEMORATED, by the Seventy-fourth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, that the members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars are individuals blessed with uncommon courage, integrity, valor, and honor who made a profound personal commitment to our country. Therefore, the South Dakota Legislature salutes the Veterans of Foreign Wars on one hundred years of service to our country, to their families, and to our communities.