

State of South Dakota

SEVENTY-SIXTH SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2001

723E0853

SENATE COMMEMORATION NO. 8

Introduced by: Senators Vitter, Albers, Apa, Bogue, Brosz, Brown (Arnold), Daugaard, de Hueck, Dennert, Diedrich (Larry), Diedrich (Elmer), Drake, Duxbury, Everist, Greenfield, Hainje, Ham, Hutmacher, Kleven, Koetzle, Koskan, Madden, McCracken, McIntyre, Moore, Munson, Olson (Ed), Putnam, Reedy, Staggers, Sutton (Dan), Symens, Volesky, and Whiting and Representatives Pummel, Abdallah, Adelstein, Begalka, Eccarius, Hennies (Thomas), Kloucek, Lange, Lintz, Madsen, McCaulley, Pederson (Gordon), Peterson (Bill), Rhoden, and Teupel

A LEGISLATIVE COMMEMORATION, Honoring the memory of Captain Donald Smith, United States Army Air Corps.

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Donald Smith, of Belle Fourche, South Dakota, participated in the April 18, 1942, air raid over the Japanese home islands led by General James Doolittle. Lieutenant Smith and his crew, like the other crews and aircraft involved in the raid, took off from the aircraft carrier *Hornet* in heavily loaded B-25 bombers, bombed their targets in Japan, crash landed in Japanese-occupied China, and were protected and led to safety by Chinese people. The Doolittle raid was a daring operation that provided an enormous boost to American morale in the early days of the Pacific war; and

WHEREAS, after his escape, Lieutenant Smith returned home to Belle Fourche and was honored during that community's Fourth of July celebration in 1942; and

WHEREAS, after being promoted, Captain Donald Smith was reassigned to the European Theater of Operations, where he later died in the service of his country:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT COMMEMORATED, by the Seventy-sixth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, that the memory of Captain Donald Smith of Belle Fourche, South Dakota, be honored for his heroism and sacrifice and that the South Dakota Legislature expresses its gratitude to all South Dakotans and Americans who served their country in the cause of freedom during the Second World War.