

State of South Dakota

EIGHTIETH SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2005

813L0813

SENATE COMMEMORATION NO. 11

Introduced by: Senators Adelstein, Abdallah, Apa, Bogue, Broderick, Dempster, Duniphan, Earley, Gray, Greenfield, Hansen (Tom), Hundstad, Kelly, Kloucek, Knudson, Kooistra, Koskan, Lintz, McCracken, McNenny, Moore, Napoli, Nesselhuf, Olson (Ed), Peterson (Jim), Schoenbeck, Smidt, Sutton (Dan), Sutton (Duane), and Two Bulls and Representatives Howie, Bradford, Buckingham, Elliott, Frost, Garnos, Hanks, Haverly, Hennies, Klaudt, Krebs, Lange, McCoy, O'Brien, Pederson (Gordon), Putnam, Rhoden, Turbiville, Van Etten, Van Norman, and Wick

A LEGISLATIVE COMMEMORATION, Honoring the memory of the late Senator Drue Vitter and his unfailing loyalty and promotion of his chosen home town of Hill City and the State of South Dakota.

WHEREAS, in 1990, the Black Hills Institute of Geological Research, Inc., of Hill City collected within the State of South Dakota, the largest and most complete tyrannosaurus rex skeleton ever found, bringing major worldwide, scientific attention to the State of South Dakota; and

WHEREAS, the late Senator Drue Vitter, then Mayor of Hill City immediately recognized this unparalleled scientific discovery and the public's fascination with dinosaurs, particularly tyrannosaurus rex, as an opportunity to promote Hill City and the State of South Dakota in the scientific and the traveling community; and

WHEREAS, in June 2005, more than thirty eminent paleontologists from around the world are gathering in Hill City for a scientific symposium celebrating "100 years of tyrannosaurus rex" because the first published, scientific description of tyrannosaurus rex described bone material collected by E. D. Cope in 1905 in South Dakota; and

WHEREAS, the 28th day of February, 2005, will be a very special day in South Dakota beckoning school children and their parents from the entire region to visit our state capitol in Pierre where the replica of an original tyrannosaurus rex skeleton, excavated from a South Dakota site, is erected in the rotunda of the State Capitol Building:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT COMMEMORATED, by the Eightieth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, that the late Senator Drue Vitter be remembered and honored for his farsightedness in recognizing how effective publicizing the excavation of a major tyrannosaurus rex find would be for inviting the world to visit the State of South Dakota and in recognition that his efforts in that promotion are still bearing fruit for the State of South Dakota.