

State of South Dakota

NINETY-FOURTH SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2019

741B0825

HOUSE COMMEMORATION NO. 1028

Introduced by: Representatives Peterson (Sue), Anderson, Bartels, Barthel, Beal, Bordeaux, Borglum, Brunner, Chaffee, Chase, Cwach, Dennert, Deutsch, Diedrich, Duba, Duvall, Finck, Frye-Mueller, Glanzer, Goodwin, Gosch, Greenfield (Lana), Gross, Hammock, Hansen, Haugaard, Healy, Howard, Hunhoff, Jensen (Kevin), Johns, Johnson (Chris), Johnson (David), Karr, Koth, Lake, Latterell, Lesmeister, Livermont, Marty, McCleerey, Mills, Milstead, Miskimins, Mulally, Olson, Otten (Herman), Perry, Peterson (Kent), Pischke, Post, Pourier, Qualm, Randolph, Rasmussen, Reed, Reimer, Rounds, Saba, Schoenfish, Smith (Jamie), St John, Steele, Sullivan, Weis, Wiese, Willadsen, York, and Zikmund and Senators Langer, Blare, Bolin, Cammack, Cronin, Curd, DiSanto, Ewing, Foster, Greenfield (Brock), Heinert, Jensen (Phil), Kennedy, Klumb, Kolbeck, Maher, Monroe, Nelson, Nesiba, Novstrup, Otten (Ernie), Partridge, Rusch, Russell, Schoenbeck, Smith (VJ), Soholt, Solano, Stalzer, Steinhauer, Sutton, White, Wiik, Wismer, and Youngberg

A LEGISLATIVE COMMEMORATION, Celebrating and commemorating the commissioning of the USS South Dakota.

WHEREAS, the U.S. Navy's seventeenth Virginia-class nuclear submarine, USS South Dakota, was commissioned at Naval Submarine Base New London on February 2, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the USS South Dakota is the first submarine of its class to feature various technological innovations including quieting technology for the engine room, quieting coating materials for the sub's hull, and a newly designed vertical array; and

WHEREAS, the USS South Dakota is three hundred and seventy-seven feet long, will be able to dive to depths greater than eight hundred feet, and operate at speeds in excess of twenty-five knots submerged; and

WHEREAS, Brian D. Hagg of Rapid City commemorated the historical event by writing a poetic tribute, which will be on display on board the submarine, in which he wrote:

*God speed, great warship of the deep,
entrusted by our Motherland
to protect its shores
while our children sleep.
For the odyssey ahead will
demand much from commander and crew,*

*gallant sailors chosen from the special few.
May you be inspired by those
who fought so honorably before
aboard the USS South Dakota,
feared Battleship X,
decorated for its heroic engagements
during the Second World War.*

*God. speed, valiant sentry of the deep,
commissioned to protect our homeland
while our children sleep.
To your namesake's legacy
may you always be true,
with stealth and tenacity
bravely perform the missions
commanded of you.
Forthwith let the annals of naval history
chronicle your service with distinction,
for you must know, SSN 790,
that you have the trust of a grateful nation.*

*God speed, mighty vessel of the deep,
vanquish, if necessary,
dark forces that threaten America
while our children sleep.
From the Great State of South Dakota,
home of Mt. Rushmore,
with its iconic symbols of liberty
chiseled in stone,
accept this prayerful declaration.
If, in the service of our country,
perils of war put you in harm's way,
may you be inspired by Crazy Horse,
who fought bravely,
impervious to enemy fire,
and, guided by the spirit of Black Elk,
forget not that for which you stand,
rock solid in the service of our nation,
knowing you are in the thoughts and prayers
of a free homeland.*

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT COMMEMORATED, by the Ninety-Fourth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, that the Legislature recognizes, commemorates, and celebrates the commissioning of the USS South Dakota.