

HOUSE COMMEMORATION NO. 1026

Introduced by: Representatives Heinemann, Dennert, Johnson, Karr, McCleerey, Reed, Rounds, Rozum, Steinhauer, Tulson, and Wiese and Senators Cronin, Heinert, Jensen (Phil), Klumb, Partridge, Soholt, Solano, Stalzer, and Youngberg

A LEGISLATIVE COMMEMORATION, Honoring Sylvan Vigness, a veteran of the United States Navy, who received a Purple Heart for injuries sustained during the Second World War for his outstanding commitment and dedicated service to the people of the State of South Dakota and the United States.

WHEREAS, Sylvan Vigness has honorably and dutifully served his country as a signalman in the United States Navy and earned the Purple Heart during actions off the coast of Okinawa; and

WHEREAS, along with sailors aboard the assault transport USS Hinsdale, Sylvan Vigness directly supported the marine landings at Iwo Jima before embarking for Okinawa; and

WHEREAS, during the low light of early morning, the USS Hinsdale was struck in the engine room by an enemy suicide plane loaded with bombs which caused catastrophic damage and left the USS Hinsdale without power and quickly taking on water. During the explosion, Sylvan received injuries to his face and lost vision in his left eye; and

WHEREAS, after returning to Rutland and then moving to Flandreau, Sylvan began working as an educator and eventually served as a school superintendent until his retirement in 1988:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT COMMEMORATED, by the Ninety-Third Legislature of the State of South Dakota, that Sylvan Vigness be recognized for his exceptional dedication and service to the people of South Dakota and the United States of America.

