



2025 South Dakota Legislature

House Commemoration 8002

Introduced by: **Representatives** Randolph, Baxter, Derby, Duffy, Goodwin, Jensen (Phil), Ladner, Massie, Mulally, and Uhre-Balk

1 **A LEGISLATIVE COMMEMORATION, Honoring the life and service of former**
2 **Representative Dr. Donald Dean Van Etten.**

3 WHEREAS, Dr. Donald Dean Van Etten passed away on September 23, 2024, at the age
4 of ninety; and

5 WHEREAS, Don was born on March 10, 1934, to Amos and Ruth Van Etten in Orange City,
6 Iowa. Don completed medical school at the University of Iowa School of Medicine, Iowa City,
7 Iowa, and his surgical internship and residency were completed at Butterworth Hospital in
8 Grand Rapids, Michigan; and

9 WHEREAS, during the summer of 1957, after his junior year of college, Don met and
10 married the love of his life, Verla Jean Vanderbush. They married in 1957, and Verla joined
11 him, and thereafter settled in Iowa City, where Verla was employed as a nurse at the VA
12 Medical Center; and

13 WHEREAS, upon completion of his surgical training, Don and Verla followed God's call for
14 missionary work in the Middle East, where they resided with their four children for three years;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, after returning to the United States, Don joined a surgical group in Mason City,
17 Iowa, where he served for ten years, and thereafter, being drawn to solo practice, moved his
18 family to Rapid City, South Dakota, where he served for twenty years; and

19 WHEREAS, upon retirement from his surgical practice at the age of sixty-five, Don served
20 in the South Dakota House of Representatives from 2001-2008; and

21 WHEREAS, during Don's legislative tenure, he served as the chair of the House Health and
22 Human Services Committee, and as a member of the House Taxation Committee;

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT COMMEMORATED, by the One Hundredth Legislature of the State
2 of South Dakota, that Dr. Donald Dean Van Etten gave so much of his life and himself to the
3 people of this state, and in return, the Legislature extends sincerest condolences to his family.