

South Dakota Legislature



House Commemoration 8009

Introduced by: **Representative** *Duba*

ENTITLED A LEGISLATIVE COMMEMORATION, Recognizing February as Black History Month and South Dakota's rich history of African American achievements.

WHEREAS, Black History Month was first established in 1926 as Negro History Week by historian Carter G. Woodson and the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History and reestablished in 1976 as Black History Month by President Gerald Ford; and

WHEREAS, the 2020 theme for Black History Month is "African Americans and the Vote," which recognizes the sesquicentennial of the Fifteenth Amendment (1870) and the right of black men to the ballot after the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the South Dakota African American History Museum, founded in 2009 in Sioux Falls, is to foster greater appreciation for the perseverance of African Americans in South Dakota through educational exhibits, community events, outreach, and historical documentation and preservation; and

WHEREAS, the first African American who laid foot in South Dakota was York, who participated in the Lewis and Clark expedition; and

WHEREAS, Sarah "Aunt Sally" Campbell was the first African American woman to own property and an independent business in South Dakota, when she discovered gold in the Black Hills and subsequently owned a half dozen mining claims and became a successful entrepreneur; and

WHEREAS, the Blair Family and others met in Yankton in 1906 and established the Northwestern Homestead Movement, which sought to relocate African Americans from Southern states to homesteads in South Dakota and the Upper Midwest; and

WHEREAS, Cleveland Abbott was born in Yankton, graduated from high school in Watertown with sixteen varsity letters, graduated from South Dakota State College, now South Dakota State University, with fourteen varsity letters, was a football head coach at Tuskegee University for thirty-two seasons, served in World War I, and coached the first two African American gold medal winners; and

WHEREAS, Leonard "Bud" Williams served in World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War, served as Director of Student Activities at the Mitchell Vocational Institute, as a Mitchell city council member, and as mayor of Mitchell; and

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WHEREAS, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., graced Sioux Falls, South Dakota, with his presence in January of 1961; and

WHEREAS, Kenny Anderson, Sr., was the first and, so far only, black city commissioner for the city of Sioux Falls and has a park and community center in the city named for him; and

WHEREAS, Emma Armstrong, who lived to be 102, lived in Sioux Falls since 1945, touched the lives of many of the people mentioned here, including Porter Williams, Kenny Anderson, Bud Williams, and Martin Luther King, Jr., among many others and dedicated her life to community service:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT COMMEMORATED, by the Ninety-Fifth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, that the Legislature commends and recognizes the deep history of African Americans in our great state and honors them throughout the month of February, Black History Month, and the rest of the year.

