

SENATE COMMEMORATION NO. 32

Introduced by: Senators Heinert, Frerichs, Killer, and Nesiba and Representatives Bordeaux, Bartling, Ring, and Wismer

A LEGISLATIVE COMMEMORATION, Celebrating and honoring the life of Dr. Wayne Evans.

WHEREAS, Dr. Evans, whose Lakota name was Oyate Ekta Cante Gluza (He Holds His Heart Out to the People), passed away on August 26, 2016. Dr. Evans was a member of the Sicangu Lakota Oyate tribe and a former professor at the University of South Dakota; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Evans, born on April 19, 1938, in Rosebud, South Dakota, was a graduate of Black Hills State College and earned his masters and doctorate degrees at the University of South Dakota. He came from humble beginnings and, as an adolescent, did not see the importance of education until he started living with the Al and Susan Kary family; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Evans instilled the importance of American Indian education, helped young Native Americans retain their culture, taught many of our teachers about the American Indians, and was greatly revered by many of his colleagues; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Evans, an extremely fluent Lakota speaker, was an integral piece of American Indian Education at the University of South Dakota. He worked in the Upward Bound office, was an associate professor for forty years, and served as a Wase Wakpa Elder, eyapaha, and drum keeper for the Oyate Singers. Dr. Evans and his wife Patty received the distinction of being the first married couple to be named co-grand marshals of the Dakota Days Parade:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT COMMEMORATED, by the Ninety-Second Legislature of the State of South Dakota, that the Legislature recognizes and remembers Dr. Wayne Evans and his contributions throughout his life to the education of and about the American Indian people as well as the positive impact he had on his community and the people around him.

