

SENATE COMMEMORATION NO. 13

Introduced by: The Members of the Eighty-First Legislative Session

A LEGISLATIVE COMMEMORATION, Commending and honoring Abbey Merchen for receiving the Prudential Spirit of Community Award for being one of the top volunteers in South Dakota.

WHEREAS, Abbey Merchen, an esteemed resident of Spearfish and a student at Spearfish Middle School, has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service by receiving a 2006 Prudential Spirit of Community Award; and

WHEREAS, Abbey Merchen has received this prestigious award, presented by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals, which honors young volunteers across America who have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to serving their communities; and

WHEREAS, Abbey Merchen earned this award by giving generously of her time and energy to her community by devoting herself to the care and rehabilitation of abused, injured, and orphaned wildlife, providing them food, shelter, and support, serving her fellow volunteers, and educating the public by giving guided tours at the Spirit of the Hills Wildlife Sanctuary in Spearfish; and

WHEREAS, the success of the State of South Dakota, the strength of our communities, and the overall vitality of American society depend, in great measure, upon the dedication of young people like Abbey Merchen who use their talents and resources to serve others:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT COMMEMORATED, by the Eighty-first Legislature of the State of South Dakota, that Abbey Merchen hereby be commended and honored as a recipient of the Prudential Spirit of Community Award, and for her outstanding record of volunteer service, peer leadership, and community spirit.