

SOUTH DAKOTA REPUBLICAN PARTY

YEAR 2006 RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 1:

WHEREAS, President George W. Bush has served our country for five and one half years with steadfast honor and dedication; and,

WHEREAS, President George W. Bush has resolutely worked to make America safer, stronger and more influential in our world; and,

WHEREAS, President George W. Bush has demonstrated his outstanding ability to deal with the threats and attacks on our country; and,

WHEREAS, President George W. Bush's efforts have prevented any further attacks on our country since September 11, 2001; and,

WHEREAS, President George W. Bush has fought tirelessly for freedom and democracy for America and the world; and,

WHEREAS, President George W. Bush is committed to South Dakota's servicemen and servicewomen across the world; and,

WHEREAS, President George W. Bush has proven his commitment to the young people of America and South Dakota by working to make education more responsive to the needs of our children;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the South Dakota Republican Party that we thank and commend President George W. Bush for all his work, dedication and leadership in protecting the United States of America.

Resolution 2:

WHEREAS, U.S. Senator John Thune has done a superior job as Senator for all of South Dakota; and

WHEREAS, Senator Thune led the efforts to save Ellsworth Air Force Base from closure by expending valuable political capital to fight for the base and spent an inordinate amount of time establishing relationships with the Air Force Chief of Staff, Department Of Defense officials and many others who make important decisions; and

WHEREAS, Senator Thune is aggressively focused on reversing a trend of over 10 years of shrinking missions and reduced personnel at Ellsworth Air Force Base; and

WHEREAS, results of such efforts are already evident by the Air Force's decision to locate its newly consolidated Financial Services Center at Ellsworth Air Force Base, resulting in 775 new jobs in South Dakota; and

WHEREAS, Senator Thune serves on the Senate Armed Services Committee and is committed to our national defense and winning the war on terrorism, as evidenced by his continual support of our troops currently serving overseas and those veterans who have served before them; and

WHEREAS, Senator Thune has twice visited Iraq and met with South Dakota troops there, and continues to be impressed by their courage, professionalism and dedication, and is committed to staying the course and providing the necessary resources to enable our troops to accomplish their mission; and

WHEREAS, Senator Thune is focused on strengthening our national security and reducing America's dependency on foreign oil, increasing opportunities for South Dakota's farmers, and its value-added ag industry; and

WHEREAS, Senator Thune helped advance a long-blocked energy bill, which dramatically increases the demand for corn-based ethanol, and is the main sponsor to the Alternative Energy Refueling System Act, which will help make alternative fuels more readily available to the general public; and

WHEREAS, Senator Thune was instrumental in passing the federal highway bill, which had been delayed for over two years, and includes \$150 million in funding for statewide projects, an increase of 30 percent over the previous bill passed in the 1990s; and includes funds for completion of the Heartland Expressway in western South Dakota and the Rail Relocation/Phillips to the Falls project in Sioux Falls; and

WHEREAS, Senator Thune has also effectively worked on behalf of the South Dakota Indian tribes, as evidenced by, among other things, ensuring the continued operation of the emergency room in Wagner, serving the people of the Yankton Sioux Tribe; saving the COPS grants program on Pine Ridge Indian Reservation; and is immensely concerned with the widespread use and transporting of meth on the reservations, as well as inadequate numbers of law enforcement personnel and corrections facilities; and is focused on providing for the safety and economic well-being of Native American communities; and

WHEREAS, Senator Thune helped secure the confirmation of two recent Supreme Court justices and several other judicial posts which had previously been blocked in the Senate; and

WHEREAS, Senator Thune recognizes that ours is a nation of immigrants and believes this is also a nation of laws that need to be enforced; that an effective national immigration policy should begin with secure borders and be fair to those immigrants coming to the United States via the lawful process and not reward unlawful behavior;

Therefore, be it resolved that the South Dakota Republican Party thanks and commends Senator John Thune for all the work, dedication and leadership he has shown in solving problems and working hard for all South Dakotans.

Resolution 3:

WHEREAS, a strong military helps to promote and preserve freedom throughout the world; and,

WHEREAS, many South Dakota women and men serve our country in the Armed Forces; and,

WHEREAS, those who serve our country in the military put their lives on the line time and time again in defense of freedom; and,

WHEREAS, those who served before and those who are currently serving in the Armed Forces are true South Dakota heroes; and,

WHEREAS, many of those South Dakotans and their families have made great sacrifices in our defense and that sacrifice is something that can only be appreciated but not repaid;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Republican Party supports our military women, men, veterans, and their families.

Resolution 4:

WHEREAS, The South Dakota Republican Party believes in the sanctity of life, limited government and individual responsibility and opportunity; and,

WHEREAS, Bruce Whalen stands strong for South Dakota's unique family values and is an active member of Gospel Fellowship Church in his home town of Pine Ridge; and,

WHEREAS, Bruce Whalen was the coordinator of the Oglala Sioux Tribe's Judiciary Committee, committed to improving the justice system on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation; and,

WHEREAS, Bruce Whalen established the first organized Republican Party in Shannon County, and is its first Chairman; and,

WHEREAS, through his leadership, Native American support of Republican candidates increased nearly 10 percent; and,

WHEREAS, Bruce Whalen graduated from Oglala Lakota College with a Bachelor's Degree in Human Services and awarded the Caroline M. Reyer award for earning the highest GPA and his service to the student body; and,

WHEREAS, Bruce Whalen, husband of Carol and father of Kyle, Elizabeth, and Jeremiah, fully supports and represents these and other Republican values;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the South Dakota Republican Party fully supports Bruce Whalen's candidacy for South Dakota's seat in the United States House of Representatives.

Resolution 5:

WHEREAS, Gov. Mike Rounds has served as South Dakota's 31st governor since January 2003 with steadfast honor and dedication; and,

WHEREAS, Gov. Mike Rounds has tirelessly fought for increased economic development opportunities for all communities in South Dakota and his efforts have been getting results. South Dakota has increased the number of jobs by more than 10,000 while Gov. Rounds has been in office; and,

WHEREAS, Gov. Mike Rounds has shown his vision for South Dakota by designing and implementing his 2010 Initiative to spur economic development and grow South Dakota's tourist industry; and,

WHEREAS, under the leadership of Gov. Mike Rounds, South Dakota has increased the Gross State Product to a record \$29.4 billion per year, well on the way to the \$34 billion goal; and,

WHEREAS, Gov. Mike Rounds' commitment to economic development is not only bringing in new businesses, but is also helping existing businesses expand including the \$1 billion Big Stone II Plant in Milbank – the largest private capital investment ever made in South Dakota, the Dakota Turkey Processing Plant, and a \$100 million expansion at John Morrell; and,

WHEREAS, visitor spending has increased to an all-time high \$800 million per year thanks to innovative and aggressive marketing of the state with Gov. Mike Rounds at the lead; and,

WHEREAS, Gov. Mike Rounds has taken the South Dakota Certified Beef program from concept to reality in less than a year, ensuring cattle producers receive a premium price for their product while consumers get the assurance of the best beef anywhere; and,

WHEREAS, Gov. Mike Rounds took the lead in negotiating the transfer of the Homestake Gold Mine in Lead to the State to create a national underground science laboratory. Gov. Mike Rounds worked with the South Dakota Legislature to secure the funds needed to create a mid-level lab propelling South Dakota to the preferred and best site for a national lab; and,

WHEREAS, Gov. Mike Rounds has shown his commitment to the young people of South Dakota by fighting for increased funding for education, awarding more and more scholarships to our best and brightest and developing research opportunities at our colleges and universities; and,

WHEREAS, Gov. Mike Rounds has taken state government to the people with his "Capital for a Day" program; and,

WHEREAS, Gov. Mike Rounds is an honest, hardworking and genuine person; and,

WHEREAS, Gov. Mike Rounds is a loving husband to Jean, devoted father to Chris, Brian, Carrie and John and loyal son to Don and Rosemary;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the South Dakota Republican Party that we fully commend and thank Gov. Mike Rounds for his years of service to the people of South Dakota;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the South Dakota Republican Party support and encourage his re-election as Governor of South Dakota.

Resolution 6:

WHEREAS, Dennis Daugaard has served the people of South Dakota as Lieutenant Governor for the past three and a half years; and,

WHEREAS, Lt. Gov. Daugaard has guided the work of the South Dakota Senate as its President; and,

WHEREAS, Lt. Gov. Daugaard is a loving husband to Linda and father to Laura, Sara and Christopher; and,

WHEREAS, Lt. Gov. Daugaard has been an indispensable member of the Rounds administration; and,

WHEREAS, Lt. Gov. Daugaard has been a faithful servant of the people of South Dakota;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the South Dakota Republican Party that we commend and thank Lt. Governor Dennis Daugaard for his years of service to the people of South Dakota.

Resolution 7:

WHEREAS, Republicans hold every Constitutional office in South Dakota except one; and,

WHEREAS, our Republican Constitutional officers have been ardent protectors of South Dakota's resources; and,

WHEREAS, our Republican Constitutional officers have worked to make state government more efficient and responsive to the citizens of our state; and,

WHEREAS, our Republican Constitutional officers have helped to make South Dakota a better state;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the South Dakota Republican Party that we commend and thank our Republican Constitutional officers for their steadfast dedication and faithful service to the people of South Dakota.

Resolution 8:

WHEREAS, the auxiliaries, South Dakota Federation of Republican Women, Young Republicans, College Republicans and Teen-Age Republicans of South Dakota are active in the political affairs of our state; and

WHEREAS, the ideas, programs and activities they bring to the Republican Party are essential to the continued growth of the party;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the South Dakota Republican Party commends and thanks the South Dakota Federation of Republican Women, Young Republicans, College Republicans, and Teen-Age Republicans of South Dakota for their individual and collective contributions to the Republican party and State of South Dakota, and we pledge to them our continued support.

Resolution 9:

WHEREAS, proposed Amendment E will be submitted to the voters of South Dakota for their approval in November; and,

WHEREAS, Amendment E, also known as the JAIL initiative, goes beyond what petition circulators told voters it would do; and,

WHEREAS, Amendment E would open up judges, lawyers, elected officials and anyone with any degree of judicial immunity to lawsuits for decisions they have and will make; and,

WHEREAS, Amendment E would drastically affect the cost of insurance in South Dakota and make business startup and continuation nearly impossible by creating an environment that will open the door for frivolous lawsuits; and,

WHEREAS, Amendment E will significantly reduce the number of our citizenry who would be willing to serve on local boards and commissions; and,

WHEREAS, Amendment E would allow a Special Grand Jury to set aside precedent and duly adopted law to subjectively punish fellow South Dakotans; and,

WHEREAS, Amendment E allows these Grand Juries to be seated with felons, but not elected officials, lawyers or judges; and

WHEREAS, judges could be sued for decisions made many years ago; and,

WHEREAS, Amendment E would have a grave chilling effect on our system of government;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the South Dakota Republican Party strongly opposes proposed Constitutional Amendment E and urges the voters to defeat it in November.

Resolution 10:

WHEREAS, the United States is presently at war; and,

WHEREAS, President Bush's Administration's mission is to protect the people of the United States from foreign and domestic enemies; and,

WHEREAS, recent investigation has revealed illegal aliens continue to infiltrate our borders in record numbers posing a major economic drain on our citizenry and a threat to our security;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Republican Party strongly encourages Congress to enforce the laws of our land to protect our borders against foreign and domestic enemies.

Resolution 11:

WHEREAS, the issue of Stem Cell Research, is at the forefront of national debate; and,

WHEREAS, there are currently two branches of stem cell research. The first branch is based on the use of adult stem cells and NON-embryonic sources. The second branch is based on medical science that requires the destruction of human embryos; and,

WHEREAS, stem cell research based on the destruction of human embryos poses a threat of the commercialization of human beings; and,

WHEREAS, medical research based on adult stem cells and NON-embryonic sources has shown promise;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the SD Republican Party encourages the support of research on adult stem cells and stem cells from NON-embryonic sources, but rejects stem cell research that requires the harvesting of unborn human beings.

Resolution 12:

WHEREAS, South Dakota and twenty-six other states have passed official English laws; and,

WHEREAS, the list of failed bilingual education programs goes on and on in state after state; and,

WHEREAS, our nation's future well-being depends on children becoming fluent in English; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Republican Party of the state of South Dakota is in favor of English to be the official language of the United States of America and any immigrant who wants to be an American should learn English.

Resolution 13:

WHEREAS, the United States was founded with a rich religious heritage; and,

WHEREAS, there are forces seeking to destroy our great religious heritage by suppressing religious expression; and,

WHEREAS, we are the party of Abraham Lincoln who said, "It is fit and becoming in all people, at all times, to acknowledge and revere the Supreme Government of God; for the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.";

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the SD Republican Party encourages our educational institutions to teach the founding principles of the Declaration of Independence which says, "We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal. That they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Resolution 14:

WHEREAS, South Dakota supports all of its citizens, both born and unborn; and

WHEREAS, the 2006 South Dakota Legislature passed HB 1215 in a bipartisan effort by an overwhelming majority of 67%; and

WHEREAS, Governor Rounds, in support of this bipartisan effort, signed HB 1215 into law;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Republican Party joins many Democrats and Independents across the state in supporting HB 1215 at the ballot on November 7, 2006.

Resolution 15:

WHEREAS, the South Dakota Republican Party believes unequivocally that marriage is the union of one man and one woman; and

WHEREAS, the South Dakota Republican Party believes that this union is a cornerstone of a healthy society;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Republican Party supports the passage of Constitutional Amendment C in the November 7th, General Election.

Resolution 16:

WHEREAS, education on species origin is a vital aspect in the understanding of nature and the purpose of human life; and,

WHEREAS, evolution is a theory that is taught in public schools as fact and at the exclusion of all other theories; and

WHEREAS, the South Dakota Republican Party believes there are other plausible theories, including creationism;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the South Dakota Republican Party supports efforts to expand beyond evolution the knowledge, scope, and debate in public education on the theories of species origin.

Resolution 17:

WHEREAS, nine American Indian reservations, the Cheyenne River, Crow Creek, Flandreau, Lake Traverse, Lower Brule, Pine Ridge, Rosebud, Standing Rock and Yankton reservations, are an integral part of the great state of South Dakota; and,

WHEREAS, reservation lands are approximately one-fourth of South Dakota land; and,

WHEREAS, American Indians comprise some 8.3 percent of the South Dakota population; and,

WHEREAS, in spite of federal, state, and tribal government efforts to improve life on South Dakota reservations, socio-economic problems continue to plague American Indians;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Republican Party supports efforts to promote health and safety on reservations, to encourage economic development and independence, and to bring American Indians into the political process.