

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the City of Deadwood, in partnership with Deadwood History Inc., the Deadwood Historic Preservation Commission, the Deadwood Chamber of Commerce and Deadwood's Main Street Initiative, have committed to preserving, promoting and protecting Deadwood's rich and unique heritage; and

WHEREAS, to commemorate this heritage, a public arts committee has worked diligently to recognize and celebrate many of Deadwood's early pioneers through the Legends of Deadwood project in which bronze sculptures are being created and placed in their honor at key sites throughout Historic Deadwood; and

WHEREAS, numerous organizations and individuals have supported this project financially, on both a public and private level, to fund this project to commemorate these legendary individual's contributions and tribulations in this community's pioneer days; and

WHEREAS, the public arts committee engaged the artistic services of sculptor James Michael Maher of Spearfish, South Dakota to create a likeness of Deadwood Legend Wong Fee Lee, and

WHEREAS, Wong Fee Lee played an important leadership role in creating an acceptance of a multi-cultural community with Deadwood and was well respected throughout Deadwood and the State of South Dakota, and

WHEREAS, the descendants of Wong Fee Lee are honoring their heritage by combining their family reunion with this dedication and celebration of the Chinese culture and their role in keeping this heritage alive, and

WHEREAS, the statue of Wong Fee Lee will serve as a reminder to residents and visitors of the role the Chinese community had in the settlement of Deadwood and their connection to Deadwood's pioneer beginning.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Charlie Struble-Mook, Mayor of the City of Deadwood, by virtue of the authority vested in me by our community, hereby proclaim June 26, 2025, as WONG FEE LEE DAY and urge all citizens to join me in saluting Wong Fee Lee for his contributions to the early days of Deadwood.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this 26th day of June 2025.

Charlie Struble-Mook, Mayor