

EXECUTIVE PROCLAMATION
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

WHEREAS, Rudy Nef has completed over 61 years of dedicated service to Valley Queen Cheese in Milbank, South Dakota, having been born and raised in Milbank to Swiss immigrants in 1933. During a blizzard on December 23, 1961, Rudy married his wife in Eureka and together they raised 5 daughters; and

WHEREAS, Rudy started working at Valley Queen Cheese at 9 years of age where he wrapped butter for 50 cents an hour. Rudy went on to graduate college with a degree in Dairy Science in 1955 and then proudly served our country in the U.S. Army to return as a full-time employee at Valley Queen Cheese; and

WHEREAS, In 1970, Rudy and his partner, Max, assumed the leadership of Valley Queen Cheese after their fathers founded it. The business flourished under their leadership and is today a global industry; and

WHEREAS, Rudy served as a Grant Country Commissioner, as the Mayor of Milbank, and served as a Vice President of the South Dakota Board of Regents. Rudy was instrumental in creating the Midwest Dairy Institute and supporting the growth and advancement of the dairy industry in South Dakota. Rudy and his partner, Max, received the prestigious Laureate Award from the National Cheese Institute in 2003; and

WHEREAS, Valley Queen Cheese was selected as the Business of the Year by the South Dakota Chamber of Commerce and Industry in 2009. Valley Queen Cheese has a significant economic impact on the community and the Great State of South Dakota. With a history of over 90 years of operation in Milbank, supporting 240 employees, using milk from over 65,000 cows daily, and producing cheese and milk products which are distributed worldwide; and

WHEREAS, Rudy's philanthropy is evidenced in the sponsorship of the Alfred Cafe at the new Milbank Hospital, funding for the Alfred Dairy Science building at SDSU, establishing the Nef Family Chair at Augustana University, establishing the Milbank Community Foundation, co-creating the Valley Queen Charitable Foundation and promoting the creation of the Valley Queen Heritage Center in Milbank; and

WHEREAS, Rudy Nef has served his Family, his Company, his Employees, his Board of Directors, his Community, his Church, his home State of South Dakota, and his beloved Country; he stands as being honored and admired by all who have been the recipients of his character, leadership, talent and generosity; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, KRISTI NOEM, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim August 23, 2019, as

RUDY NEF APPRECIATION DAY

in South Dakota.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty First Day of August in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Nineteen.



Kristi Noem
Governor of South Dakota

ATTEST:

Steven J. Barnett
Secretary of State