

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3015

Introduced by

Representatives Martinson, Carlisle, Kretschmar, Thoreson

Senators Flakoll, Mathern

1 A concurrent resolution urging the United States Department of Treasury and the United States  
2 Mint to consider a design theme featuring Roger Maris for the North Dakota quarter under the  
3 Fifty States Commemorative Coin Program Act and urging the Governor and the North Dakota  
4 Quarter Design Selection Process Commission to support this design theme.

5 **WHEREAS**, Roger Maris was raised, graduated from high school, and is buried in North  
6 Dakota; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Roger Maris was an outstanding athlete in several competitive sports at  
8 Fargo Shanley High School, played professional baseball in Fargo, and went on to play for four  
9 major league baseball teams in both leagues in a distinguished 12-year major league career;  
10 and

11 **WHEREAS**, Roger Maris hit 275 career home runs and drove in 851 runs in major  
12 league regular season play and played a key role in the success of seven World Series teams  
13 and three World Champion teams and is among a handful of players to hit a World Series home  
14 run for a team from each league; and

15 **WHEREAS**, Roger Maris captured the attention and imagination of America as few in  
16 the sports world have, when his outstanding season challenged and surpassed baseball's most  
17 cherished record held by the immortal Babe Ruth, and Roger Maris accomplished the  
18 unparalleled feat of hitting 61 home runs against 46 different pitchers while striking out only  
19 67 times during the 1961 season, a feat made more remarkable by the unceasing pressure  
20 exerted upon him by the media and negative public attention; and

21 **WHEREAS**, Roger Maris was a fleet outfielder, renowned equally for his skill with a  
22 glove as for his prowess as an outstanding hitter, and displayed remarkable abilities on defense  
23 for which he received a Gold Glove Award; and

1           **WHEREAS**, Roger Maris was selected as the most valuable player in the American  
2 League in consecutive seasons, 1960 and 1961, and probably achieved more in baseball with  
3 less appreciation from sportswriters and fans than any other player; and

4           **WHEREAS**, until his death in 1985, Roger Maris gave unsparingly of himself to causes  
5 for the assistance of deprived, handicapped, and underprivileged children and adults and  
6 served with Shirley Temple Black as cochairman of the national campaign for the Multiple  
7 Sclerosis Society in 1962; and

8           **WHEREAS**, Roger Maris was the recipient of the Theodore Roosevelt Rough Rider  
9 Award in 1963, which is the highest recognition the state of North Dakota can bestow upon  
10 present or former North Dakotans; and

11          **WHEREAS**, Roger Maris is a hero to the citizens of North Dakota as a human symbol of  
12 our state's ambition, fortitude, ability, drive, and determination; and

13          **WHEREAS**, despite his recordsetting career and numerous accomplishments, Roger  
14 Maris has not been fully recognized by his peers and inducted into the National Baseball Hall of  
15 Fame; and

16          **WHEREAS**, an alternative way to honor this great North Dakotan would be to place an  
17 image of him in midswing, blasting his 61st home run on the North Dakota Commemorative  
18 Quarter, to be released in 2006;

19          **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
20 **OF NORTH DAKOTA, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:**

21          That the Fifty-ninth Legislative Assembly sincerely urges the United States Department  
22 of the Treasury and the United States Mint to consider a design theme featuring Roger Maris  
23 for the North Dakota quarter under the Fifty States Commemorative Coin Program Act; and

24          **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Governor and the North Dakota Quarter Design  
25 Selection Process Commission support a design theme featuring Roger Maris for the North  
26 Dakota quarter; and

27          **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this  
28 resolution to the Secretary of the Treasury, the director of the United States Mint, each member  
29 of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation, the Governor, and each member of the North  
30 Dakota Quarter Design Selection Process Commission.