

**Sixty-first Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 6, 2009**

SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL RESOLUTION NO. 8501

(Senators Holmberg, Nething, Triplett)
(Representatives Glassheim, Martinson, Svedjan)

A concurrent memorial resolution extending sympathy and condolences of the North Dakota Legislative Assembly to the family of the University of North Dakota President Emeritus Thomas J. Clifford.

WHEREAS, God in His infinite wisdom has summoned to His side Dr. Thomas J. Clifford on February 4, 2009; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Clifford, a native of Langdon, was affiliated with the University of North Dakota for 70 years as a student, faculty member, business dean, vice president, president, and distinguished alumnus; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Clifford was the first native North Dakotan to serve as president of the University of North Dakota, and the second University of North Dakota alumnus to achieve presidency of his alma mater serving as the eighth president from 1971 until 1992, being recognized as one of the most effective university presidents in the nation in 1986; and

WHEREAS, under Dr. Clifford's leadership, the University of North Dakota evolved into the largest and most comprehensive university in a five-state region: North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho; and several nationally ranked programs were developed under his leadership including a four-year medical school, the Energy and Environmental Research Center, the Center for Innovation, and John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Clifford, after being the longest serving president of the University of North Dakota, became the first chancellor of the North Dakota University System; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Clifford played a key role in facilitating one of the nation's largest gifts to a public university, resulting in the Ralph Engelstad Arena, the finest college hockey facility in the world; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Clifford was held in the highest esteem for his entrepreneurial spirit; leadership and service to his community, state, and nation; and his numerous accomplishments in public and private life reflected his leadership, compassion, and commitment to others to achieve and rise to their potential; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Clifford was the recipient of numerous awards and accolades, including the Sioux Award in 1982 and an Honorary Doctorate of Laws degree from the University of North Dakota in 2000 and was inducted into the North Dakota Rough Rider Hall of Fame in 2002; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota and the world lost a unique leader and icon who left an indelible mark upon his state and university and the lives of all those who knew him;

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

That the members of the Sixty-first Legislative Assembly honor Dr. Thomas J. Clifford, pay tribute to his remarkable legacy, extend and offer our sympathy and sincere condolences to his family on behalf of all the citizens of the state of North Dakota; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State present an enrolled copy of this resolution to Dr. Clifford's wife Gayle Clifford and the families of Dr. Clifford and Gayle Clifford.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2009,
at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State