

Sixty-first
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

**SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL
RESOLUTION NO. 8501**

Introduced by

Senators Holmberg, Nething, Triplett

Representatives Glassheim, Martinson, Svedjan

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 **WHEREAS**, Dr. Clifford was held in the highest esteem for his entrepreneurial spirit;
25 leadership and service to his community, state, and nation; and his numerous accomplishments

1 in public and private life reflected his leadership, compassion, and commitment to others to
2 achieve and rise to their potential; and

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

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

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

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

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