

**Sixty-third Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 8, 2013**

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4013
(Senators Flakoll, Carlisle, Wardner)
(Representatives Carlson, Gruchalla, D. Johnson)

A concurrent resolution supporting the second United States Navy ship to carry the name of our Great State - USS NORTH DAKOTA (SSN-784).

WHEREAS, the first United States Navy ship to carry the name of our Great State - USS NORTH DAKOTA (BB-29) was commissioned in 1910 and served until she was decommissioned in 1923; and

WHEREAS, USS NORTH DAKOTA (BB-29) was the first all big gun or dreadnought battleship launched by the United States Navy and she was the first ship launched to be driven by steam turbine engines; and

WHEREAS, the Great State of North Dakota is the state in the Union farthest away from a year-round saltwater port; and

WHEREAS, the Great State of North Dakota has seen many of her sons and daughters leave these prairies to serve with distinction and honor in the United States Navy; and

WHEREAS, it has been more than 90 years since a ship of the United States Navy has carried the name of the Great State of North Dakota; and

WHEREAS, in July 2008 the then Secretary of the Navy Donald Winter bestowed upon our Great State the honor of naming the eleventh VIRGINIA Class nuclear-powered attack submarine to be built USS NORTH DAKOTA (SSN-784); and

WHEREAS, as the eleventh submarine of the VIRGINIA Class NORTH DAKOTA will be the first submarine of the VIRGINIA Class to be equipped with two cylinders each holding six Tomahawk cruise missiles as well as the latest SONAR gear plus torpedoes with the added capability of carrying a wide variety of Special Forces and their equipment; and

WHEREAS, this fine ship is expected to be christened NORTH DAKOTA in September 2013 by her Ship's Sponsor, Mrs. Katie Fowler, the wife of Vice Admiral Jeff Fowler, USN (Ret), a 1973 Bismarck High School graduate; and

WHEREAS, NORTH DAKOTA is expected to be commissioned in the summer of 2014; and

WHEREAS, NORTH DAKOTA, when she joins the fleet in 2014, will be the most modern and capable attack submarine in the world, and she will operate for 33 years without refueling; and

WHEREAS, she will have a crew of 14 officers and 120 enlisted men, and she will go to sea under the command of Commander Douglas V. Gordon, United States Navy; and

WHEREAS, Electronics Technician Master Chief Tim Preabt, United States Navy, who was born in Minot, educated in Williston, and graduated from Mandan High School, serves as the Chief of the Boat and is the senior enlisted advisor to the Commanding Officer; and

WHEREAS, NORTH DAKOTA brings pride and patriotic joy to our Great State and its people; and

WHEREAS, our state's USS North Dakota Committee will not only support NORTH DAKOTA through its christening and commissioning, but will work to build and maintain a strong and close relationship between her and the people and communities of our Great State throughout her entire 33-year life expectancy;

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

That the Sixty-third Legislative Assembly thanks former Secretary of the Navy Donald Winter for the honor he has bestowed upon our Great State by naming the eleventh VIRGINIA Class submarine USS NORTH DAKOTA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the people of our Great State are encouraged to join in the support of USS NORTH DAKOTA through her christening, commissioning, and her entire expected 33 years of service in the world's greatest Navy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Sixty-third Legislative Assembly extends its best wishes to Commander Gordon and his crew throughout the final stages of the construction of NORTH DAKOTA and it extends its blessings on all who command and serve on board her throughout her entire service life; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward an enrolled copy of this resolution to Commander Gordon. God speed NORTH DAKOTA. Fair winds and following seas.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2013,
at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State