

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4013

Introduced by

Senators Flakoll, Carlisle, Wardner

Representatives Carlson, Gruchalla, D. Johnson

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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