

**Fifty-ninth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 4, 2005**

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3006
(Representatives Maragos, Kretschmar)
(Senators Flakoll, Syverson)

A concurrent resolution recognizing Roger Maris on his major league baseball career and urging the Committee on Baseball Veterans of the Baseball Hall of Fame to elect Roger Maris to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Roger Maris was selected as the most valuable player in the American League in consecutive seasons, 1960 and 1961, and probably achieved more in baseball with less appreciation from sportswriters and fans than any other player, which is an injustice that could be rectified by the Committee on Baseball Veterans; and

WHEREAS, members of the Committee on Baseball Veterans, being among the greatest to ever play the game, can appreciate better than sportswriters ever could that Roger Maris was among the elite players of his era and what he endured in his career; and

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

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

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

That the Fifty-ninth Legislative Assembly takes great pleasure in recognizing Roger Maris for his outstanding accomplishments both in and out of major league baseball and respectfully urges the Committee on Baseball Veterans of the Baseball Hall of Fame to elect Roger Maris to the Baseball Hall of Fame as a well-deserved tribute to his outstanding major league career and his inspiration to youth through his exemplary conduct on and off the baseball diamond; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send an enrolled copy of this resolution to each member of the Committee on Baseball Veterans of the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2005,
at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State