

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4015

Introduced by

Senators Flakoll, Espegard, Wardner

Representatives Hawken, Thoreson

1 A concurrent resolution commending Maury Wills on his major league baseball career and
2 urging the Committee on Baseball Veterans of the Baseball Hall of Fame to elect Maury Wills to
3 the Baseball Hall of Fame.

4 **WHEREAS**, Maury Wills revolutionized and energized the game of baseball through his
5 extraordinary baserunning and base stealing prowess; and

6 **WHEREAS**, Maury Wills broke Ty Cobb's 47-year-old record in 1962 when he stole a
7 major league record 104 bases in a single season, while being caught stealing only 13 times;
8 the year before Maury entered the majors the entire National League had a total of 388 stolen
9 bases and in 1962 Maury Wills alone stole over 25 percent of the league total the year before
10 he made the majors; and

11 **WHEREAS**, Maury Wills led the National League in stolen bases six straight seasons
12 and tied the National League record of four years leading the league in singles; and

13 **WHEREAS**, Maury Wills gathered 2,134 hits and had a lifetime batting average of .281,
14 which is equal to or greater than that of a number of other Hall of Fame middle infielders; and

15 **WHEREAS**, Maury Wills became only the third African-American manager in major
16 league baseball when he became manager of the Seattle Mariners; and

17 **WHEREAS**, Maury Wills was selected to seven major league all-star teams and was the
18 first Most Valuable Player of an all-star game in the history of major league baseball; and

19 **WHEREAS**, Maury Wills was the 1962 National League Most Valuable Player; and

20 **WHEREAS**, Maury Wills was a fleet-footed and sure-handed fielder, earning the Gold
21 Glove Award for fielding in 1961 and 1962 seasons and shortstop of the year in 1971, at
22 age 39; and

23 **WHEREAS**, Maury Wills was also a major force on the winning L. A. Dodgers team for
24 11 years and helped lead the Dodgers to three World Series victories in 1959, 1963, and 1965
25 and a National League pennant victory in 1966; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Maury Wills' many athletic achievements tell the story of a true sportsman
2 and team player, including countless awards including S. Rae Hickok Pro-Athlete Award,
3 "Sport" magazine's Man of the Year, "Sporting News" Player of the Year, and Associated Press
4 Athlete of the Year; and

5 **WHEREAS**, Maury Wills is a great ambassador for baseball through youth camps in the
6 United States, Japan, Mexico, and Cuba and through media appearances and served under
7 Governor Ronald Reagan as the Chairman of Athletics for Youth in the state of California; and

8 **WHEREAS**, Maury Wills is an intelligent, articulate, informative, and engaging
9 personality who spent six years as a baseball analyst for NBC Sports major league baseball
10 game of the week and one year as an HBO network in-studio sports personality; and

11 **WHEREAS**, Maury Wills was a great student of the game who was always his best in
12 crisis situations during a game; and

13 **WHEREAS**, Maury Wills has been a trainer for 15 different major league baseball
14 teams, teaching the art of baserunning and stealing and trained the Osaka Hankyu Braves in
15 Japan for four years; and

16 **WHEREAS**, North Dakota is proud to be the home of the Maury Wills Museum and
17 appreciative of his promotion of minor league professional baseball in this state through more
18 than eight summers;

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

21 That the Fifty-ninth Legislative Assembly takes great pleasure in commending Maury
22 Wills for his outstanding accomplishments in and out of major league baseball and respectively
23 urges the Committee on Baseball Veterans of the Baseball Hall of Fame to elect Maury Wills to
24 the Baseball Hall of Fame as well-deserved tribute to his outstanding career and exemplary
25 conduct; and

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