



May 14, 2022

Congratulations, City of Bismarck, on 150 amazing years of growth and prosperity!

As we join together today and throughout the coming year to celebrate and honor Bismarck's Sesquicentennial, we look to the past, present and future with the same enduring pioneer spirit that sparked its inception. From the historic Lewis and Clark expedition through the Missouri Crossing to the brief railway that inspired Edwinton to its final nomenclature as Bismarck on May 14, 1872, the city has proudly reflected the dreams and journeys of those drawn to our nation's heartland.

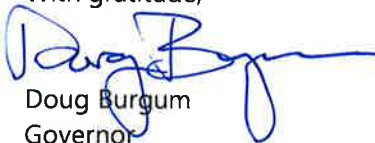
Known as the "place of the tall willows" by the Hidatsa and first designated as the Dakota Territory capital in 1883 and North Dakota state capital in 1889, Bismarck has always benefited from the beauty around it and the people within it. Resting on the banks of the Missouri River, surrounded by rolling prairies, prime farmland and an abundant food supply, early settlers were perhaps enchanted by the opportunity to feed their families and build a community from their own hard work, blood, sweat and tears – just as indigenous peoples had done for thousands of years before. Today, as the only United States capital named for a foreign statesman, Bismarck uniquely reflects the intertwining cultures, traditions and historical milestones of previous generations, including my own. It is a humbling privilege to know that my grandmother, Jessamine Slaughter Burgum, was among the first children born in Bismarck in 1873.

Like many Midwest towns that grew up along great waterways and connected via rail, main street Bismarck was the heart of activity and industry. Over the last several decades, the city has worked hard to preserve and expand that notion by creating vibrant destinations for citizens to gather, live, work and play. Whether dragging main in an antique automobile on Tuesday night or enjoying a fine meal and a few cocktails on Friday, downtown Bismarck connects residents to entertainment, shopping, health care and one another. To the north, the Capitol tower and interstate highways are lined with services and attractions. To the south, the Bismarck airport, zoo, retail mall and two college campuses reflect the values of their creators. To the east, a gateway to the homesteads and small communities that pre-date statehood; and to the west, another college and the parks, marinas, bluffs and sandbars of the Missouri River. Seamlessly nestled amid and around each of these areas, Bismarck residents build homes and neighborhoods, raise families, educate children, and create opportunities for future generations and visitors to enjoy.

Thank you, Bismarck residents, for your perseverance, initiative and agility as you support new endeavors and strengthen historical ties. Whether in famine and flood or abundance and joy, you are an independent, innovative and inclusive collection of individuals and your city reflects this. As you embark on the grand adventures of the next 150 years, we applaud your many achievements and look forward to the many others yet to come.

It is a tremendous honor to commemorate the City of Bismarck – and all that dwell therein – on the 150th anniversary of North Dakota's beloved capital city. Congratulations to all!

With gratitude,


Doug Burgum
Governor