



State of
North Dakota

Office of the Governor

Doug Burgum
Governor

PROCLAMATION
USS NORTH DAKOTA DAY
NOVEMBER 9, 2017

WHEREAS, the USS North Dakota is a Virginia-Class, nuclear-powered submarine named for the State of North Dakota on July 15, 2008, and commissioned in Groton, Connecticut, on October 25, 2014. She is the most modern and sophisticated attack submarine in the world, able to operate in littoral and deep ocean environments; and

WHEREAS, the motto of the USS North Dakota is “Strength from the Soil, Reapers of the Deep” representing the state’s coat of arms, the fighting spirit of the crew of the USS North Dakota and the reapers that harvest the fields of North Dakota; and

WHEREAS, the shape of the crest represents that of an American Indian arrowhead and the crossed tomahawks acknowledge the American Indian Nations of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara, Spirit Lake, Standing Rock Sioux, Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa and Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate; and

WHEREAS, the USS North Dakota is the first submarine to carry vertical payload tubes better known as the “Six Guns”; and

WHEREAS, since the inception of the boat, the fighting crew and officers of the “Rough Rider” have performed with unmatched excellence in training and certification, and it is the first Navy submarine to ever deploy and retrieve unmanned underwater vehicles; and

WHEREAS, Commanding Officer Michael P. Hollenbach who relieved Captain Douglas Gordon of command on July 23, 2014, and has served with distinction for two years and five months, will now pass the mantle of leadership to Commander Mark Robinson; and

WHEREAS, the patriotic residents of the State of North Dakota are unbelievably proud of “Our Ship” and hope and pray for the safety of her officers and crew as they patrol the waters of the world protecting freedom and democracy.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim November 9, 2017, **USS NORTH DAKOTA DAY** in the State of North Dakota.



Doug Burgum
Governor

ATTEST:



Alvin A. Jaeger
Secretary of State