

Quentin N. Burdick Memorial Scholarship Fund

Quentin Northrop Burdick

(June 19, 1908 – September 8, 1992)

Jocelyn Burdick established the memorial scholarship fund in 1994 in memory of her husband Quentin N. Burdick. The scholarship is awarded each year to a North Dakota high school student who plans to continue their education. Recipients must have manifested accomplishments in and demonstrated an interest in public service.



Quentin Northrop Burdick was born in Munich, ND in 1908 and moved with his family to Williston, ND in 1910, where his father, Usher, was a lawyer and rancher. He grew up breaking wild ponies on the family ranch. He captained Williston High School's undefeated football team, was active in debate and class president three years running. At the University of Minnesota, he played football where he served as blocking back for future Hall-of-Famer, Bronk Nagurski. He was president of his fraternity, Sigma Nu, and fond of saying that he majored in football and minored in law. He said that between games he earned a law degree.

His brother, Eugene Burdick, became district judge in Williston and a sister, Eileen, a lawyer. Upon graduating in 1932, Quentin joined his father, Usher, a future U.S. Congressman, in the practice of law. During the Depression, Burdick worked with the Farmers Union to defend and advise farmers threatened with foreclosure.

He joined the new Non-Partisan League; a populist-progressive group allied with the Republicans and lost several races for local and statewide offices. Believing NPLers had no future in the Republican column, Burdick joined the Democrats. The NPL followed him into the Democratic Party in 1956.

Burdick lost six elections before he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1958, becoming the first Democrat North Dakota sent to Congress in Washington. On June 28, 1960, he won a special election to fill the unexpired term of the late Sen. William Langer. He was re-elected in 1964, 1970, 1976, 1982 and 1988. He served one term in the House and 32 of the 34 years to which he was elected in the Senate. Only two Senators had served longer than he.

Burdick on senators making long speeches*

"They do a lot of speaking, lot of talking, more than I would. I want to gather up the votes. I don't care about the speeches. I'm a workhorse, not a showhorse."

**From interviews with Dan Rylance*

In 1987, Burdick became chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. He also chaired the appropriations Sub-committee on Agriculture. He formed and co-chaired the Senate Rural Health Caucus and served on the Special Committee on Aging and the Select Committee on Indian Affairs.

The Memorial Service to celebrate Quentin's life was held in the Great Hall of Fargo's Holiday Inn to accommodate the anticipated gathering. Over 1,200 people were in attendance including Native American Indians representing all the tribes in the state, two planeloads of Senators, their wives, and the Burdick staff from Washington. The Native American Indians had a rider-less horse (symbolizing a fallen leader) tethered outside and they played Tribute music and sang with their drums at the poolside reception following the service.



FM Area Foundation
Connecting people and purpose.

Quentin N. Burdick Memorial Scholarship



*Application Deadline –
March 31 of current year*

I. General Information

Name _____

Permanent Address _____

Telephone _____ Cell Phone # _____

E-mail _____

II. Additional Information

Name of High School: _____

High School GPA: _____

College or University: _____

III. Attachments

1. List your academic achievements – and public or community service.
2. Write an essay addressing the following: *(limited to 500 words – good grammar and spelling are essential)*
 - How can individuals make a difference in their community?
 - How do you hope to become involved in public/community service?

Please double space and use 12-point type

3. References/Letters of Recommendation from:
 - A High School Principal or teacher; addressing your academic work.
 - A Community Member, addressing your potential for leadership.

IV. Transcript: Attach a copy of your high school transcript to this application.

Signature

Applications should be emailed to:
Scholarships@areafoundation.org with the subject line:
Burdick Scholarship – Your Name OR mailed to:

FM Area Foundation Attn: Scholarships
409 7th Street South Fargo, ND 58103