

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION DRHJR50389-LG-288C (04/21)

Sponsors: Representative Ray.

Referred to:

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE MEMORY OF WILLIAM "BIG BILL"
2 FRANCE, NASCAR'S FOUNDER, AND ENCOURAGING THE NASCAR
3 ORGANIZATION TO KEEP THE LOWE'S MOTOR SPEEDWAY AS THE SITE
4 OF THE NASCAR NEXTEL ALL-STAR CHALLENGE.

5 Whereas, William "Big Bill" France was born on September 26, 1909; and

6 Whereas, Bill France was affectionately known as "Big Bill" among his
7 family and friends; and

8 Whereas, in 1931, Bill France married North Carolina native Anne B.
9 Bledsoe of the Nathan's Creek Community in Ashe County, and together they had two
10 sons; and

11 Whereas, in 1934, Bill France and his family moved to Daytona Beach,
12 Florida, where he opened a gas and service station; and

13 Whereas, Bill France was a stock car race enthusiast and in 1938 promoted
14 the first successful stock car race on Daytona Beach; and

15 Whereas, Bill France drove in a number of races and in 1940 won the
16 National Stock Car Championship; and

17 Whereas, in 1947, Bill France founded the National Association for Stock
18 Car Automobile Racing (NASCAR); and

19 Whereas, in 1949, Bill France established the NASCAR Strictly Stock
20 Division, which later became the NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series; and

21 Whereas, in 1972, Bill France retired as the President of NASCAR; and

22 Whereas, Bill France was recognized as a leader in accelerating the
23 development of metallurgical advances and aerodynamics, vehicle construction, fire-
24 preventing fuel cells and check valves, tire improvement, roll bar construction, highway
25 traffic pattern studies, seat and shoulder harness design, human studies under stress and
26 fatigue, and wheel and brake design; and

27 Whereas, Bill France died in 1992 as one of the most influential figures in
28 American automobile racing; and

1 Whereas, the motorsports industry has greatly impacted the economy in
2 North Carolina; and

3 Whereas, in 2003, the total economic impact of the motorsports industry in
4 North Carolina was \$5.1 billion; and

5 Whereas, the 2005 NASCAR NEXTEL All-Star Challenge will have an
6 estimated \$100 million impact in the Charlotte area and North Carolina; and

7 Whereas, the 2005 NASCAR NEXTEL All-Star Challenge will take place on
8 Saturday, May 21, 2005, at the Lowe's Motor Speedway in Concord; and

9 Whereas, the NASCAR NEXTEL All-Star Challenge race will include all
10 drivers and car owners who have won races in the preceding and current years, active
11 drivers who have won the NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series Championship, active drivers
12 who have previously won the NASCAR NEXTEL All-Star Challenge, and the winner
13 of the NEXTEL open; and

14 Whereas, one driver from among the top 50 in NASCAR NEXTEL Cup
15 Series driver points standing who is not already in the NASCAR NEXTEL All-Star
16 Challenge will also be selected to participate in the race from the votes cast by
17 NASCAR fans; and

18 Whereas, past All-Star Challenge champions include Matt Kenseth, Ryan
19 Newman, Dale Earnhardt, Jr., Jimmie Johnson, and Rusty Wallace and multiple All-Star
20 Challenge winners Dale Earnhardt, Jeff Gordon, Terry Labonte, and Davey Allison; and

21 Whereas, in addition to the race, a number of other activities have been
22 planned for this year's All-Star Challenge event, including a trophy tour and pit crew
23 challenge; and

24 Whereas, the NASCAR NEXTEL All-Star Challenge Trophy Tour will be
25 held May 10 through 19, providing NASCAR fans across the State with the opportunity
26 to view the all-star challenge trophy and show cars, participate in contests, and interact
27 with NASCAR personalities; and

28 Whereas, the All-Star Challenge Trophy Tour will kick off at the State
29 Capitol in Raleigh, then travel to Camp LeJeune, Wilmington, Fort Bragg, Pope Air
30 Force Base, Kannapolis, Greensboro, Asheville, Mooresville, and Concord before
31 arriving at the Charlotte Coliseum on May 19; and

32 Whereas, the first NASCAR NEXTEL All-Star Pit Crew Challenge will take
33 place on May 19, 2005, at the Charlotte Coliseum; and

34 Whereas, during the Pit Crew Challenge individuals and teams will compete
35 in seven head-to-head skills competitions designed to showcase the talents of
36 NASCAR's top crew members and identify the top pit crew specialists and overall pit
37 crew; and

38 Whereas, the All-Star Challenge has been held for 21 years with the Lowe's
39 Motor Speedway serving as the location of the race for 20 of those years; and

40 Whereas, the NASCAR organization should keep the All-Star Challenge at
41 the Lowe's Motor Speedway because it is located in the center of the sport with an
42 overwhelming majority of the NASCAR teams and suppliers located within a 100-mile
43 radius of the Charlotte metropolitan area; Now, therefore,

44 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

1 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the memory of William "Big
2 Bill" France, founder of the National Association for Stock Car Automobile Racing,
3 known as "NASCAR."

4 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly encourages NASCAR to make the
5 Lowe's Motor Speedway the permanent site of the NASCAR NEXTEL All-Star
6 Challenge.

7 **SECTION 3.** The General Assembly encourages the citizens of this State to
8 support the 2005 NASCAR NEXTEL All-Star Challenge by attending the activities
9 planned for May 10-21, 2005.

10 **SECTION 4.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
11 resolution to the governing body and officers of NASCAR.

12 **SECTION 5.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.