

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005**

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION DRHJR60121-LG-23 (01/25)

Sponsors: Representative Ray.

Referred to:

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING NORTH CAROLINA'S GREAT NASCAR
2 LEGENDS DALE EARNHARDT, RALPH EARNHARDT, LEE PETTY, TIM
3 FLOCK AND HIS COMPANION, JOCKO, BANJO MATTHEWS, CURTIS
4 TURNER, FIREBALL ROBERTS, BUCK BAKER, AND AFRICAN-AMERICAN
5 RACING PIONEER WENDELL SCOTT, AND ENCOURAGING NASCAR TO
6 SELECT NORTH CAROLINA AS THE LOCATION FOR ITS HALL OF FAME.

7 Whereas, North Carolina takes great pride in its position as the stock car
8 racing capital in the United States and the world and is the "Hub of Motorsports in the
9 United States"; and

10 Whereas, motorsports events have become and remain hugely popular with
11 the people of North Carolina, with more than one million fans attending motorsports
12 events in the State each year, thereby substantially enhancing the tourism industry in
13 North Carolina; and

14 Whereas, after World War II, stock car racing evolved in the foothills, the
15 pinewoods, and the Piedmont, quickly becoming one of the deepest traditions in North
16 Carolina popular culture; and

17 Whereas, North Carolina's motorsports industry has an annual economic
18 impact of \$5.1 billion and creates an excess of 24,000 jobs with an average income of
19 over \$69,000; and

20 Whereas, North Carolina is in the running to serve as the site of the NASCAR
21 Hall of Fame; and

22 Whereas, 82% of the Nextel Cup Series, 72% of the Busch Series, and 55%
23 of the Craftsman Truck Series teams are headquartered in North Carolina; and

24 Whereas, more than 95% of the NASCAR teams and suppliers are located
25 within a 100-mile radius of the Charlotte metropolitan area; and

26 Whereas, Lowe's Motor Speedway, which is located in North Carolina, hosts
27 two NASCAR Nextel Cup Series and NASCAR Busch Series races, the NASCAR
28 Nextel All-Star Challenge, and a number of other important NASCAR events; and

1 Whereas, North Carolina is the ideal location for the NASCAR Hall of Fame
2 because it is host to the NASCAR Business Cluster; and

3 Whereas, North Carolina was host to the first race held in NASCAR's top
4 division – at the time called "Strictly Stock", currently known as Nextel Cup – on June
5 19, 1949, at the old Charlotte Speedway; and

6 Whereas, the field of 33 drivers in the first "Strictly Stock" contained nine
7 men who would later achieve Hall-of-Fame status, including North Carolinians Buck
8 Baker, Jim Paschal, Lee Petty, and Herb Thomas; and

9 Whereas, North Carolina has produced more NASCAR Nextel Cup (formerly
10 Grand National and Winston Cup) champions than any other state in the nation; and

11 Whereas, there are more than six NASCAR-related driving schools
12 headquartered in North Carolina, and 10 museums in North Carolina dedicated to
13 motorsports, and the offices of seven motorsports sanctioning bodies, including
14 NASCAR's licensing and research development offices; and

15 Whereas, North Carolina is the location of two of NASCAR's major
16 television broadcast and production industry partners, "NASCAR Images" and "The
17 Speed Channel"; and

18 Whereas, several of the constituent institutions of The University of North
19 Carolina System offer programs concentrating in motorsports and automotive
20 engineering; and

21 Whereas, North Carolina is the home of the prestigious NASCAR Technical
22 Institute, a career school focusing on training and educating tomorrow's workforce in
23 the automotive and motorsports industry, graduating hundreds of students annually who
24 come to North Carolina from all parts of the country to take advantage of this unique
25 opportunity; and

26 Whereas, several of the North Carolina Community Colleges offer programs
27 concentrating in motorsports and the performance automotive industries; and

28 Whereas, on October 21, 2004, Governor Michael F. Easley recognized Bill
29 France, Jr., past Chairman and CEO of NASCAR, with the "Order of the Long Leaf
30 Pine"; and

31 Whereas, North Carolina has earned the distinction of being the home of the
32 NASCAR racing community and should be the home of the NASCAR Hall of Fame;
33 Now, therefore,

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

35 **SECTION 1.** The North Carolina General Assembly honors the memory of
36 NASCAR legends Dale Earnhardt, Ralph Earnhardt, Lee Petty, Tim Flock and his
37 companion, Jocko, Banjo Matthews, Curtis Turner, Fireball Roberts, Buck Baker, and
38 African-American racing pioneer Wendell Scott, and as a fitting tribute encourages
39 NASCAR to select North Carolina, the "Destination of Choice" for the loyal fan base of
40 NASCAR race fans and home to more than 1,000 businesses involved in or support of
41 the NASCAR racing community, as the site for its Hall of Fame.

42 **SECTION 2.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
43 resolution to the governing body and officers of NASCAR.

44 **SECTION 3.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.