

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005

H

2

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 375
Committee Substitute Favorable 3/1/05

Sponsors:

Referred to:

February 24, 2005

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING NORTH CAROLINA'S GREAT NASCAR
2 LEGENDS RALPH DALE EARNHARDT, SR., RALPH LEE EARNHARDT, LEE
3 PETTY, ADAM KYLER PETTY, JULIUS TIMOTHY "TIM" FLOCK AND HIS
4 COMPANION JOCKO FLOCKO, EDWIN KEITH "BANJO" MATTHEWS,
5 CURTIS MORTON TURNER, EDWARD GLENN "FIREBALL" ROBERTS,
6 ELZIE WYLIE "BUCK" BAKER, SR., AND AFRICAN-AMERICAN RACING
7 PIONEER WENDELL OLIVER SCOTT, AND ENCOURAGING NASCAR TO
8 SELECT NORTH CAROLINA AS THE LOCATION FOR ITS HALL OF FAME.

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

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

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

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

22 Whereas, North Carolina is in the running to be the site of the National
23 Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR) Hall of Fame; and

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

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

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

4 Whereas, the field of 33 drivers in the first "Strictly Stock" contained nine
5 men who would later achieve Hall of Fame status, including North Carolinians Elzie
6 Wylie "Buck" Baker, Sr., Jim Paschal, Lee Petty, and Herb Watson Thomas; and

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

9 Whereas, a number of NASCAR legends have significant ties to this State,
10 including Ralph Dale Earnhardt, Sr., who died February 18, 2001; Ralph Lee Earnhardt,
11 who died September 26, 1973; Lee Petty, who died April 5, 2000; Adam Kyler Petty,
12 who died May 12, 2000; Julius Timothy "Tim" Flock, who died March 31, 1998, and
13 his companion monkey Jocko Flocko; Edwin Keith "Banjo" Matthews, who died
14 October 2, 1996; Curtis Morton Turner, who died October 4, 1970; Edward Glenn
15 "Fireball" Roberts, who died July 2, 1964; Elzie Wylie "Buck" Baker, Sr., who died
16 April 14, 2002; and

17 Whereas, Wendell Oliver Scott, who died December 22, 1990, is the only
18 African-American ever to have won a Grand National Series event in NASCAR history;
19 and

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

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

27 Whereas, several of the constituent institutions of The University of North
28 Carolina System offer programs concentrating in motorsports and automotive
29 engineering; and

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

35 Whereas, several of the North Carolina community colleges offer programs
36 concentrating in motorsports and the performance automotive industries; and

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

40 Whereas, North Carolina has earned the distinction of being the home of the
41 NASCAR racing community and should be the home of the NASCAR Hall of Fame;
42 Now, therefore,

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

1 **SECTION 1.** The North Carolina General Assembly honors the memory of
2 NASCAR legends Ralph Dale Earnhardt, Sr., Ralph Lee Earnhardt, Lee Petty, Adam
3 Kyler Petty, Julius Timothy "Tim" Flock, Edwin Keith "Banjo" Matthews, Curtis
4 Morton Turner, Edward Glenn "Fireball" Roberts, Elzie Wylie "Buck" Baker, Sr., and
5 African-American racing pioneer Wendell Oliver Scott, and as a fitting tribute
6 encourages NASCAR to select North Carolina, the "Destination of Choice" for the loyal
7 fan base of NASCAR race fans and home to more than 1,000 businesses involved in or
8 support of the NASCAR racing community, as the site for its Hall of Fame.

9 **SECTION 2.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
10 resolution to the governing body and officers of the National Association for Stock Car
11 Auto Racing.

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