

By Senator Webster

12-2216-99

See HR

1                                   Senate Resolution No. \_\_\_\_

2           A resolution recognizing April 27, 1999, as

3           Eddie Cheever, Jr., Day.

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5           WHEREAS, the sport of auto racing is one of the world's

6 most popular spectator sports and is the fastest growing

7 spectator sport in the United States, and

8           WHEREAS, Florida is fortunate to be the home of several

9 renowned speedways, such as Daytona, Orlando, Sebring, and

10 Homestead, as well as numerous short tracks throughout the

11 state, and

12           WHEREAS, the Indianapolis 500 Mile Race is known as the

13 greatest spectacle in auto racing and, since its inception in

14 1911, has clearly been recognized as the most prestigious

15 event in the history of the sport, and

16           WHEREAS, the largest crowd at any sporting event in the

17 world in 1998 gathered at Indianapolis to watch the 82nd

18 running of the Indianapolis 500, and

19           WHEREAS, the 1998 Indianapolis 500 was won by Eddie

20 Cheever, Jr., a resident of Lake Nona in Orlando, Florida, and

21           WHEREAS, this year, the 1999 Indianapolis 200 at the

22 Walt Disney World Speedway in Lake Buena Vista was also won by

23 Eddie Cheever, Jr., and

24           WHEREAS, introduced to racing at an early age, Eddie

25 Cheever, Jr., had, by the age of twenty, already driven

26 go-karts, Formula Fords, Formula Three cars, Formula Two cars,

27 and Formula One cars, and

28           WHEREAS, Eddie Cheever, Jr., drove Formula One cars for

29 12 years with numerous podium finishes to his credit before

30 coming to America to begin racing Indy cars in 1990, and

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1           WHEREAS, after 26 years of racing throughout Europe and  
2 the United States, Eddie Cheever, Jr., needed a new challenge,  
3 and

4           WHEREAS, in 1996, with the formation of the Indy Racing  
5 League, Cheever decided it was time to take the next step to  
6 further his racing career and became the Indy Racing League's  
7 first owner/driver, and

8           WHEREAS, Eddie Cheever, Jr., formed the Team Cheever  
9 racing team and based it in Indianapolis, the heart of Indy  
10 racing, and

11           WHEREAS, at the beginning of the 1998 season, Cheever  
12 established a partnership with Clyde Perlee, publisher and  
13 editor-in-chief of West Publishing for 25 years, who brought a  
14 strong sense of business strategy and organization to the  
15 Cheever racing team, and

16           WHEREAS, in its brief three-year Indy Racing League  
17 history, Team Cheever has won the 1999 Indy 200, the 1998 Indy  
18 500, and the 1997 Indy 200, and garnered the Rookie of the  
19 Year title at the 1997 Indy 500 with Jeff Ward and Rookie of  
20 the Year honors for the 1998 Indy Racing League season with  
21 Robby Unser, and

22           WHEREAS, with the 1998 Indianapolis win, Eddie Cheever,  
23 Jr., became the first owner/driver to win the Indy 500 since  
24 A.J. Foyt won in 1977, and

25           WHEREAS, Team Cheever has an overall team record of  
26 eight Top Five finishes and thirteen Top Ten finishes in 31  
27 starts, and

28           WHEREAS, Eddie Cheever, Jr., has become one of the  
29 first bona fide marquee stars in the Indy Racing League, and  
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1           WHEREAS, it is fitting and appropriate that the Florida  
2 Senate recognize Eddie Cheever, Jr., for his numerous  
3 accomplishments in the sport of auto racing, NOW, THEREFORE,

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5 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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7           That the Senate of the State of Florida recognizes  
8 April 27, 1999, as Eddie Cheever, Jr., Day in Florida, in  
9 honor of Eddie Cheever, Jr., winner of the 1998 Indy 500 and  
10 two-time winner of the Indy 200, for his many accomplishments  
11 in the sport of auto racing.

12           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution,  
13 with the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to Eddie  
14 Cheever, Jr., as a tangible token of the sentiments of the  
15 Florida Senate.

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