

By Representative Posey

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House Resolution

A resolution designating April 27, 1999, as  
Eddie Cheever Day.

WHEREAS, the sport of auto racing is one of the world's  
most popular spectator sports and is the fastest growing  
spectator sport in the United States, and

WHEREAS, Florida is fortunate to be the home of several  
renowned speedways, such as Daytona, Orlando, Sebring, and  
Homestead, as well as numerous short tracks throughout the  
state, and

WHEREAS, the Indianapolis 500 Mile Race is known as the  
greatest spectacle in auto racing and, since its inception in  
1911, has clearly been recognized as the most prestigious  
event in the history of the sport, and

WHEREAS, the crowd gathered in the world's largest  
sporting facility at Indianapolis watched the 82nd running of  
the Indianapolis 500 in 1998, and

WHEREAS, the 1998 Indianapolis 500 was won by Eddie  
Cheever, a resident of Lake Nona in Orange County, and

WHEREAS, this year, the 1999 Indianapolis 200 at the  
Walt Disney World Speedway in Lake Buena Vista was also won by  
Eddie Cheever, and

WHEREAS, introduced to racing at an early age, Eddie  
Cheever had, by the age of twenty, already driven go-karts,  
Formula Fords, Formula Three cars, Formula Two cars, and  
Formula One cars, and

WHEREAS, Eddie Cheever drove Formula One cars for 12  
years with numerous podium finishes to his credit before  
coming to America to begin racing Indy cars in 1990, and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

27           WHEREAS, Eddie Cheever has become one of the first bona  
28 fide marquee stars in the Indy Racing League, and

29           WHEREAS, it is fitting and appropriate that the Florida  
30 House of Representatives recognize Eddie Cheever for his

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1 numerous accomplishments in the sport of auto racing, NOW,  
2 THEREFORE,

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4 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
5 Florida:

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

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution  
13 be presented to Eddie Cheever as a tangible token of the  
14 sentiments expressed herein.

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