

By Representative Lynn

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House Resolution

A resolution recognizing the France family of Florida, founders and operators of NASCAR and the International Speedway Corporation.

WHEREAS, founded in 1948 in Daytona Beach, Florida, by the late William "Big Bill" France, with his wife, Anne B., the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing is the result of an effort to organize a patchwork of stock car racing groups across the Southeast, and, because of the dedication of this determined couple and their Florida family, NASCAR, headquartered in Florida, is now the most successful motorsports sanctioning body in the United States, and

WHEREAS, from its humble beginnings more than 50 years ago, NASCAR is now comprised of 12 different racing series nationwide, with the DAYTONA 500, "The Great American Race," widely regarded as one of the world's most prestigious automobile racing events, often referred to as the "Super Bowl of stock car racing"; and Speedweeks has become the state's largest annually attended sporting event, with spectators exceeding a half million at Daytona International Speedway and numbering more than 30 million in national and worldwide television audiences, and

WHEREAS, the visionary activities of "Big Bill" France, the race promoter, served as the cornerstone of International Speedway Corporation, which has grown from the one-track company that constructed Daytona International Speedway to a multimillion dollar, publicly traded corporation with 13 racetracks nationwide and numerous other prestigious holdings, and is the largest motorsports entertainment company in the

1 nation and, arguably, the world, with its base of corporate
2 operations located in the State of Florida, and
3 WHEREAS, the popularity of NASCAR and stock car racing
4 is attributed in no small part to the unique France family,
5 whose values mirror those of most Floridians and entail
6 character, teamwork, devotion, competition, hard work, and
7 family-first values, as evidenced by one generation of the
8 France family taking the dream to the next level, with Bill,
9 Jr., and Jim France taking their father's vision of NASCAR
10 from a regional sport to a national and international
11 phenomenon; by Lesa France Kennedy and Brian France's moving
12 NASCAR and International Speedway Corporation into the
13 technology arena through DAYTONA USA; and by the use of an
14 extensive Internet presence, unparalleled television coverage,
15 and other corporate promotions that enhance both the sport and
16 Florida's image and economic development potential, and
17 WHEREAS, through three generations of the France
18 family's influence on motorsports in general and stock car
19 racing in particular, the efforts of this special American
20 family, "Big Bill" France, Anne B. France, Bill France, Jr.,
21 Betty Jane France, Jim France, Sharon Manning France, Lesa
22 France Kennedy, and Brian France, has placed Florida in a
23 position of prominence in the world of motorsports nationally
24 and internationally, and
25 WHEREAS, the France family's dream has become a passion
26 for sports enthusiasts worldwide and has broadened Florida's
27 tourist trade to markets that other states and nations can
28 only imagine, and the France family's dedication to the sport
29 has not only enhanced the state's economic base and job
30 opportunities for thousands but has delivered a positive
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1 message of hope and the realization that one person's dream
2 can make a difference for generations, NOW, 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 proudly recognizes
8 the members of the France family for their dedication to the
9 State of Florida, to the sport of automobile racing, and to
10 family values in the business community.

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