

By Senator Posey

24-2214-03

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

2 A resolution recognizing NASCAR and its  
3 contribution to the history, economy, and pride  
4 of the great State of Florida.

5  
6 WHEREAS, in 1948, William H.G. France of Daytona Beach,  
7 Florida, had the vision and leadership to create the National  
8 Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR) to organize and  
9 promote stock car racing, a sport conducted at a patchwork of  
10 tracks with differing rules scattered throughout America, and

11 WHEREAS, from NASCAR's first race held on the  
12 hard-packed sand of Daytona Beach on February 15, 1948, France  
13 succeeded, with dogged determination, in legitimizing the  
14 sport and laying the groundwork for what would later become a  
15 worldwide phenomenon, and

16 WHEREAS, in 1972, Bill France, Sr., passed the reins of  
17 leadership to his son, Bill France, Jr., who would place his  
18 own unique brand upon NASCAR, taking it to new heights,  
19 expanding its reach nationwide - and worldwide - through  
20 aggressive marketing partnerships and television broadcasts  
21 reaching more than 100 countries in 21 languages, and racing  
22 NASCAR into the 21st century, placing it on a par with other  
23 great American sports, and

24 WHEREAS, NASCAR has risen to meteoric heights of  
25 popularity, envied by other sports, with more than 75 million  
26 American race fans, from factory workers to corporate  
27 executives to United States Presidents, and 13 million fans  
28 attending races in the four major competitive series in a  
29 single season. Stretching across the nation, NASCAR sanctions  
30 12 racing series, from weekly dirt track series to the premier  
31 Winston Cup Series, representing 2,200 events over 120 tracks

1 in 40 states. A single NASCAR Winston Cup race draws a crowd  
2 larger than the Super Bowl, a World Series game, and an NBA  
3 Finals game, combined, and

4 WHEREAS, from its early stars, Lee Petty, "Fireball"  
5 Roberts, and Tiny Lund, to the legends, Richard Petty, David  
6 Pearson, Bobby Allison, and Dale Earnhardt, to today's heroes,  
7 Jeff Gordon, Tony Stewart, and Dale Earnhardt, Jr., NASCAR has  
8 fostered brave, honorable, and exciting champions who serve as  
9 role models to both young and old, and

10 WHEREAS, in a world where sports fans are let down by  
11 scandals involving their heroes, NASCAR remains above the  
12 fray, weaving throughout its sport the golden threads of  
13 American values: competition, triumph, loyalty, devotion,  
14 teamwork, courage, perseverance, and spirit, and

15 WHEREAS, NASCAR stands as the preeminent example of the  
16 strength of family, from its founders, the France family, who  
17 remain at the helm of the sport, to the Pettys, the Allisons,  
18 the Earnhardts, the Jarretts, the Bodines, the Labontes, the  
19 Hendricks, the Waltrips, the Burtons, and so many others, who  
20 have devoted themselves to cultivating a true family sport,  
21 and

22 WHEREAS, with worldwide appeal, world-class  
23 competitions, and world-renowned champions, NASCAR remains  
24 grounded in its Florida roots, bringing honor and pride to  
25 this great state, NOW, THEREFORE,

26  
27 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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29 That this body pauses in its deliberations to proudly  
30 recognize NASCAR for its enduring contributions to the  
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1 history, economy, and pride of the State of Florida and  
2 recognizes April 8, 2003, as "NASCAR Day."  
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