

By Senator Smith

14-2554-03

1 Senate Resolution No. ____

2 A resolution honoring the life and memory of

3 Dale Earnhardt, legendary stock car racer.

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5 WHEREAS, Ralph Dale Earnhardt was born on April 29,

6 1951, on a farm in Kannapolis, North Carolina, and

7 WHEREAS, the son of a NASCAR driver, Ralph Earnhardt,

8 Dale Earnhardt developed a passion for stock car racing at an

9 early age, and

10 WHEREAS, Dale Earnhardt began competing in local stock

11 car races as a teenager, eventually competing in the Winston

12 Cup Circuit, and

13 WHEREAS, in 1975, Dale Earnhardt entered his first

14 Winston Cup race at the Charlotte Motor Speedway, and

15 WHEREAS, in 1979, Dale Earnhardt won his first Winston

16 Cup race at the Bristol Motor Speedway in Bristol, Tennessee,

17 and later that year was named Rookie of the Year, and

18 WHEREAS, in 1980, Dale Earnhardt clinched the NASCAR

19 Winston Cup Championship, making him the first driver to win

20 Rookie of the Year and the Winston Cup Championship in

21 successive seasons, and

22 WHEREAS, in 1984, Dale Earnhardt began driving for

23 Richard Childress, and together they formed a formidable team,

24 achieving tremendous success on the racetrack, and

25 WHEREAS, Dale Earnhardt won NASCAR championships in

26 1986, 1987, 1990, 1991, 1993, and 1994, tying Richard Petty's

27 impressive record for the most championships won in a single

28 career of stock car racing, and

29 WHEREAS, during his career, Dale Earnhardt won 34 races

30 at the Daytona track, the most of any driver in history,

31 including the Daytona 500 in 1998, and

1 WHEREAS, Dale Earnhardt was the first three-time winner
2 of the Winston Select and won three International Race of
3 Champions (IROC) Series Championships, and

4 WHEREAS, in 1998, on the 50th anniversary of NASCAR,
5 Dale Earnhardt was named one of the sport's 50 greatest
6 drivers, and

7 WHEREAS, Dale Earnhardt was nicknamed "The Intimidator"
8 because of his aggressive and keen driving abilities, and

9 WHEREAS, Dale Earnhardt also found success as a
10 businessman, including his ownership in other racing teams and
11 as a farmer in Mooresville, North Carolina, and

12 WHEREAS, Dale Earnhardt died on February 18, 2001, and

13 WHEREAS, Dale Earnhardt is survived by his wife, Teresa
14 Earnhardt; his children, Dale, Jr., Kerry, Kelly, and Taylor;
15 his mother, Martha; and several siblings, and

16 WHEREAS, Dale Earnhardt was loved and admired by people
17 from all around the world and is greatly missed both on and
18 off the racetrack, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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22 That the Florida Senate recognizes April 29, 2003, as
23 "Dale Earnhardt Day" in honor of the memory of this great
24 American sportsman, gentleman, and friend to all Floridians.

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