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House Resolution

A resolution recognizing Juan Pablo Montoya for achievements in sports car racing and for his humanitarian efforts on behalf of children.

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WHEREAS, Juan Pablo Montoya was born September 20, 1975, in Bogotá, Colombia, and started kart racing at the age of 6 under the supervision of his father, Pablo, capturing Colombian local and national titles in the Children's Kart Championships and Kart Komet Division spanning the years 1984-1989 and Kart Junior Championships in 1990 and 1991, and

WHEREAS, Juan Pablo Montoya competed in the Formula 3000 Series for 2 years, earning 7 wins and the series championship in 1998, and in the CART Championship Series for 2 years, earning 10 wins and the series championship in 1999, a year in which he also won Rookie of the Year by winning 7 races, including 3 in a row, both of which are rookie records, and

WHEREAS, in 2000, Juan Pablo Montoya, racing for Chip Ganassi and starting in the second position, won the Indianapolis 500 in his first trip to the Brickyard, and

WHEREAS, Juan Pablo Montoya competed in Formula One from 2001-2006 for BMW Williams and McLaren Mercedes, amassing 7 wins, 30 podium finishes, and 13 poles positions, and

WHEREAS, in 2007, Juan Pablo Montoya won the Rolex 24 Hours of Daytona, the NASCAR Busch Series Telcel-Motorola 200 in Mexico City, and the NASCAR Nextel Toyota/Save Mart 350 in Sonoma, he finished second in the NASCAR Nextel Allstate 400,

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and he became the first non-American driver to win NASCAR's Rookie of the Year, and

WHEREAS, in 2008, Juan Pablo Montoya, won the Rolex 24 Hours at Daytona for the second consecutive year, assisted by teammates and friends Dario Franchitti, Scott Pruett, and Memo Rojas, and

WHEREAS, Juan Pablo Montoya, as a United Nations Goodwill Ambassador, and his wife, Connie Freydell, founded the Formula Smiles Foundation to help children in impoverished areas, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

That it is fitting that Juan Pablo Montoya is recognized for his hard work and excellence in sports car racing and his humanitarian efforts on behalf of children.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be presented to Juan Pablo Montoya as a tangible token of the sentiments expressed herein.

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