**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE LONG‑HELD BELIEF OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT NASCAR RACING IS AN INTEGRAL AND VITAL PART OF THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA AND ITS ECONOMY AND TO RECOGNIZE THE DARLINGTON RACEWAY AS ONE OF OUR STATE’S MOST TREASURED ATTRACTIONS AND NASCAR RACING AS A SIGNIFICANT PART OF OUR STATE’S RICH HISTORY, AND TO NAME THE WEEK OF MAY 4, 2009 THROUGH MAY 10, 2009, “DARLINGTON RACEWAY WEEK, THE WEEK TOO TOUGH TO TAME”.

Whereas, the Darlington Raceway opened on September 4, 1950, with the inaugural running of the Southern 500, the first stock car race on a paved track; and

Whereas, since 1950, Darlington Raceway has served as a cornerstone in the development of stock car racing, one of the fastest growing and most popular spectator sports in the country; and

Whereas, Darlington Raceway is celebrating its sixtieth season of racing; and

Whereas, Darlington Raceway still hosts its annual spring race events, which will be held this year during the week of May 4, 2009; and

Whereas, South Carolina lays claim to many of the legends of NASCAR racing, including Rex White, David Pearson, Bud Moore, James Hylton, Tiny Lund, and Cale Yarborough; and

Whereas, the State of South Carolina is rich in historical references to the sport of stock car racing, beginning with the dirt raceways across the State that served as home to the fledgling sport of NASCAR racing in the 1950’s and as evidenced today by the Darlington Raceway Stock Car Museum, the Joe Weatherly Stock Car Museum, and the National Motorsports Press Association Hall of Fame at Darlington Raceway; and

Whereas, the NASCAR events at Darlington focus our nation’s attention and the attention of the world upon our great State as a sport and tourism destination; and

Whereas, the annual economic impact that NASCAR racing has on South Carolina is in excess of fifty million dollars, as NASCAR fans from across the country and around the world visit the State each year to attend racing events and vacation in communities throughout the Palmetto State; and

Whereas, the Darlington Raceway participates as a good corporate citizen at the local, regional, and state levels and is active in numerous community and charitable efforts, contributing to and enhancing the quality of life of the people and the State of South Carolina. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

That the members of the General Assembly, by this resolution, express the long‑held belief that NASCAR racing is an integral and vital part of the State of South Carolina and its economy and recognize Darlington Raceway as one of our state’s most treasured attractions and NASCAR racing as a significant part of our state’s rich history.

Be it further resolved that the week of May 4, 2009 through May 10, 2009, is named “Darlington Raceway Week, the Week Too Tough to Tame”.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to NASCAR and the Darlington Raceway.

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