

By: Senator(s) Posey, Dearing

To: Rules

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR  
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 640

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE GREAT PROFESSIONAL  
2 SPORT OF NASCAR AND ITS POPULARITY IN MISSISSIPPI AND REMEMBERING  
3 THE SPORTS LEGACY OF DALE EARNHARDT, SR.

4 WHEREAS, the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing  
5 (NASCAR) held its first sanctioned race in 1948, and since that  
6 time, NASCAR has grown into a national sport with an estimated 75  
7 million fans; and

8 WHEREAS, from 1990-2006, NASCAR joined the ranks of the four  
9 major professional sports, bringing even more attention to the  
10 sport and its champion. The 1990s will go down in history as one  
11 of the most exciting decades the sport has seen. Attendance  
12 skyrocketed, TV ratings boomed and some memorable championship  
13 moments were forged in our memories; and

14 WHEREAS, as great as the sport of NASCAR is today, it only  
15 got that way by standing on the shoulders of the giants who  
16 pioneered the sport. Their stories are part of the American  
17 dream; and

18 WHEREAS, it's no accident that NASCAR has evolved into the  
19 major sport it is today. The secret to its success can be found  
20 in its complex plan to create opportunities for all its fans,  
21 including many in Mississippi, teams, drivers, manufacturers,  
22 promoters and sponsors; and

23 WHEREAS, NASCAR racing legend Dale Earnhardt, Sr., was born  
24 on April 29, 1951; and

25 WHEREAS, with 76 victories during his career, including seven  
26 Winston Cup Championships, four International Race of Champions  
27 (IROC) Championships, 10 wins at Talladega Superspeedway and 34

28 wins at Daytona International Speedway, Dale Earnhardt was truly  
29 the face of NASCAR, inspiring fans throughout Mississippi and the  
30 nation with his skill on the track; and

31 WHEREAS, known as "The Intimidator," Dale Earnhardt, at the  
32 wheel of the No. 3 car, created a legacy in Mississippi amassing  
33 so many wins; and

34 WHEREAS, Dale Earnhardt changed the sport of racing, bridging  
35 past, present and future generations of fans by upholding the  
36 finest NASCAR traditions while remaining a cutting-edge competitor  
37 throughout the entirety of his career; and

38 WHEREAS, Dale Earnhardt's tragic death on February 18, 2001,  
39 deeply touched countless people, including many Mississippians,  
40 and the loss of this great icon of auto racing and his presence at  
41 tracks across the country will be missed for generations to come;  
42 and

43 WHEREAS, this Legislature commends the work of NASCAR and the  
44 NASCAR Foundation in bringing together drivers, teams, fans,  
45 industry partners and others to serve the causes and charities  
46 that reflect the core values of the entire NASCAR Family:

47 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
48 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
49 we do recognize the great professional sport of NASCAR and its  
50 importance to the State of Mississippi, and urge NASCAR fans  
51 throughout Mississippi to remember the sports legacy of Dale  
52 Earnhardt, Sr.

53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be forwarded to  
54 Mississippi NASCAR affiliates and be made available to the Capitol  
55 Press Corps.