

By: Representative Creekmore IV

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 46

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE DISTINGUISHED AND
2 ACCOMPLISHED CAREER OF MISSISSIPPI AND AMERICAN RACE CAR DRIVING
3 LEGEND, MR. CHARLIE KEMP, AND ACKNOWLEDGING HIS PROFOUND
4 CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SPORT OF RACING.

5 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that the Mississippi
6 Legislature recognizes the extraordinary career and lasting legacy
7 of one of the most remarkable race car drivers of all time, Mr.
8 Charlie Kemp, a Mississippi native whose legendary prowess on the
9 track forever changed the landscape of American motorsports; and

10 WHEREAS, born in Hazlehurst, Mississippi, Mr. Kemp's passion
11 for racing ignited at the young age of 16 when he made his debut
12 at the Speedbowl quarter-mile dirt track in Jackson, Mississippi,
13 finishing third in his first race and embarking on a lifelong
14 journey of unparalleled success in competitive racing; and

15 WHEREAS, demonstrating an innate ability to master speed and
16 control, Mr. Kemp dominated Mississippi's racing circuits by
17 securing back-to-back state championships in drag racing with his
18 supercharged 1955 Thunderbird, achieving an unprecedented



19 three-year unbeaten streak, and cementing his reputation as an
20 elite competitor; and

21 WHEREAS, Mr. Kemp's transition to sports car racing through
22 the Sports Car Club of America (SCCA) in 1963 marked the beginning
23 of an illustrious career that saw him competing against some of
24 the greatest names in racing history, including A.J. Foyt, Mario
25 Andretti, Stirling Moss, and Mark Donohue, among others; and

26 WHEREAS, his racing achievements include a historic tenure
27 with the Shelby GT350 R, a vehicle that became the "winningest"
28 Shelby in history under his command, setting an unmatched record
29 of 17 consecutive victories, 32 overall wins, and an astonishing
30 recorded top speed of 184 mph at Daytona – a feat praised by
31 Carroll Shelby himself; and

32 WHEREAS, Mr. Kemp further solidified his racing legacy in the
33 prestigious Can-Am series, where he piloted iconic vehicles such
34 as the McLaren M8C, Lola T222, and Porsche 917/10, claiming a
35 first-place victory at the 1973 Can-Am Mosport and earning a
36 manufacturer's title for General Motors while continuing to break
37 new ground in the highly competitive European Interseries; and

38 WHEREAS, his contributions to motorsports innovation extended
39 beyond the driver's seat, as evidenced by his pivotal role in
40 developing the Kemp Cobra II Mustang prototype, a revolutionary
41 Bob Riley-designed IMSA race car that was so advanced in speed and
42 performance that it was ultimately "outlawed" by the sanctioning
43 body; and



44 WHEREAS, Mr. Kemp's impact on racing continued well into the
45 modern era, as he remained an influential figure in motorsports
46 through team ownership and development, fostering young talent and
47 contributing to the advancement of the sport on both national and
48 international levels; and

49 WHEREAS, Talladega Superspeedway recognized his legacy by
50 naming its first sports car race the "Charlie Kemp Challenge" in
51 1970, an honor that reflects his lasting influence and the
52 widespread admiration of his peers; and

53 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to recognize
54 and celebrate the remarkable career and enduring contributions of
55 Mississippi icons of Mr. Kemp's prestige, whose skill, tenacity,
56 and pioneering spirit have left an indelible mark on the world of
57 motorsports and bestowed immense pride upon the State of
58 Mississippi:

59 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
60 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
61 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend the distinguished and
62 accomplished career of Mr. Charlie Kemp, acknowledge his profound
63 contributions to the sport of racing, and extend to him and his
64 family deepest appreciation for his tireless dedication to the
65 advancement of motorsports.

66 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
67 furnished to Mr. Charlie Kemp and to the members of the Capitol
68 Press Corps.

