

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2001
RATIFIED BILL

RESOLUTION 2001-23
HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 270

A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF DALE EARNHARDT, LEGENDARY STOCK CAR RACER.

Whereas, Ralph Dale Earnhardt was born on April 29, 1951, on a farm in Kannapolis, North Carolina; and

Whereas, the son of a NASCAR driver Ralph Earnhardt, Dale Earnhardt developed a passion for stock car racing at an early age; and

Whereas, Dale Earnhardt began competing in local stock car races as a teenager, eventually competing on the Winston Cup circuit; and

Whereas, in 1975, Dale Earnhardt entered his first Winston Cup race at the Charlotte Motor Speedway; and

Whereas, in 1979, Dale Earnhardt won his first Winston Cup race at the Bristol Motor Speedway in Bristol, Tennessee, and later that year was named Rookie of the Year; and

Whereas, in 1980, Dale Earnhardt clinched the NASCAR Winston Cup championship, making him the first driver to win Rookie of the Year and the Winston Cup championship in successive seasons; and

Whereas, in 1984, Dale Earnhardt began driving for Richard Childress, and together they formed a formidable team achieving tremendous success on the racetrack; and

Whereas, Dale Earnhardt won NASCAR championships in 1986, 1987, 1990, 1991, 1993, and 1994, tying Richard Petty's impressive record for the most championships won in a single career of stock car racing; and

Whereas, during his career, Dale Earnhardt won 34 races at the Daytona track, the most of any driver in history, including the Daytona 500 in 1998; and

Whereas, Dale Earnhardt was the first three-time winner of the Winston Select and won three International Race of Champions (IROC) series championships; and

Whereas, in 1998, on the 50th anniversary of NASCAR, Dale Earnhardt was named one of the sport's 50 greatest drivers; and

Whereas, Dale Earnhardt was nicknamed "The Intimidator" because of his aggressive and keen driving abilities; and

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

Whereas, Dale Earnhardt died on February 18, 2001; and

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

Whereas, Dale Earnhardt was loved and admired by people from all around the world and will be greatly missed both on and off the racetrack; Now, therefore,

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

SECTION 1. The General Assembly honors the memory of Dale Earnhardt and expresses the gratitude and appreciation of this State and its citizens for his life and accomplishments.

SECTION 2. The General Assembly extends its deepest sympathy to the family of Dale Earnhardt for the loss of a beloved family man and true friend.

SECTION 3. The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the family of Dale Earnhardt.

SECTION 4. This resolution is effective upon ratification.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 11th day of July, 2001.

Beverly E. Perdue
President of the Senate

James B. Black
Speaker of the House of Representatives