

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2001**

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**HOUSE RESOLUTION 816
Committee Substitute Favorable 4/16/01**

Short Title: (Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 27, 2001

1 A HOUSE RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF LINDSEY
2 GUY DEWITT AND RECOGNIZING NORTH CAROLINA AS THE NASCAR
3 STOCK CAR RACING CAPITAL OF THE WORLD.

4 Whereas, on October 9, 1990, Richmond County lost one of its most
5 prominent citizens with the death of Lindsey Guy DeWitt; and

6 Whereas, Lindsey Guy DeWitt was born on March 23, 1912, in Camden,
7 South Carolina, to Jesse Sterling DeWitt and Hattie Ward DeWitt; and

8 Whereas, in 1924, Lindsey Guy DeWitt moved with his family to Ellerbe,
9 North Carolina; and

10 Whereas, Lindsey Guy DeWitt graduated from Ellerbe High School in 1928;
11 and

12 Whereas, Lindsey Guy DeWitt married Carrie Bowles in 1935, and from their
13 marriage two daughters, Jo and Nancy, were born; and

14 Whereas, Lindsey Guy DeWitt was a successful entrepreneur in Richmond
15 County, where he was owner and president of L.G. DeWitt Trucking Company, Textile
16 Motor Freight, North State Orchards, and numerous other business ventures; and

17 Whereas, Lindsey Guy DeWitt helped to organize the Richmond County
18 Bank, and, for a time, had the distinction of being the largest peach grower in the world;
19 and

20 Whereas, in 1965, Lindsey Guy DeWitt was among a group of business
21 people who joined together to complete the construction of the North Carolina
22 Speedway in Richmond County; and

23 Whereas, Lindsey Guy DeWitt was president of the Richmond County
24 facility from 1972 until his death in 1990; and

25 Whereas, Lindsey Guy DeWitt was honored as the Richmond County Citizen
26 of the Year in 1985; and

27 Whereas, Lindsey Guy DeWitt's involvement in motorsports led to the
28 formation of his own NASCAR racing team, DeWitt Racing Enterprises, in 1966; and

1 Whereas, in 1973, Lindsey Guy DeWitt's racing team won the Winston Cup
2 Championship and in 1975, his racing team won the Daytona 500; and

3 Whereas, John Sears of Ellerbe was the first driver for the racing team and
4 former Grand National Champion Benny Parsons, also of Ellerbe, later became the
5 driver; and

6 Whereas, in 1972, Lindsey Guy DeWitt became president of the Atlanta
7 International Raceway and guided it out of bankruptcy; and

8 Whereas, Lindsey Guy DeWitt played an important role in the growth of
9 NASCAR stock car racing; and

10 Whereas, today, NASCAR stock car racing is one of the most popular
11 spectator sports in the United States, attracting families and individuals from all
12 socio-economic levels; and

13 Whereas, the North Carolina Speedway in Rockingham holds two races
14 annually, the NASCAR Winston Cup Series and NASCAR Busch Series, attracting
15 thousands of spectators and bringing worldwide attention to Richmond County and the
16 Sandhills region of the State; and

17 Whereas, the Coca-Cola 600, held annually on the last Sunday in May at the
18 Lowe's Motor Speedway in Charlotte, is one of NASCAR's most popular attractions;
19 and

20 Whereas, in 1996, a study prepared by the North Carolina Department of
21 Commerce found that the motorsports industry contributed \$392,000,000 to the State's
22 economy and provided 4,240 jobs; and

23 Whereas, today that economic impact figure has climbed to over \$1 billion
24 dollars; and

25 Whereas, over 75% of the equipment used in stock car racing is produced and
26 sold in North Carolina; and

27 Whereas, over 70% of the top Winston Cup stock car teams are
28 headquartered in North Carolina; and

29 Whereas, over 75% of the Grand National stock car teams are based in North
30 Carolina; Now, therefore,

31 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

32 **SECTION 1.** The House of Representatives honors the life and memory of
33 Lindsey Guy DeWitt and expresses the deep gratitude and appreciation of this State and
34 its citizens for his life and service to his community and State.

35 **SECTION 2.** The House of Representatives expresses its sincere sympathy
36 to the family and friends of Lindsey Guy DeWitt for their loss.

37 **SECTION 3.** The House of Representatives wishes to recognize North
38 Carolina as the NASCAR Stock Car Racing Capital of the World and encourages the
39 citizens of this State to attend stock car racing events held in North Carolina.

40 **SECTION 4.** The House of Representatives encourages the continued
41 growth of stock car racing events in North Carolina in the years ahead and supports the
42 holding of no fewer than the current number of racing events in North Carolina.

- 1 **SECTION 5.** The Principal Clerk shall transmit a certified copy of this
2 resolution to the family of Lindsey Guy DeWitt.
3 **SECTION 6.** This resolution is effective upon adoption.