

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2009**

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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION DRHJR30458-LG-209 (4/21)**

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Sponsors:     Representatives Owens, Johnson, Lucas, and Steen (Primary Sponsors).

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Referred to:

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1    A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING FOUR-TIME NASCAR SPRINT CUP CHAMPION  
2        JIMMIE JOHNSON.

3            Whereas, at the age of 34, Jimmie Johnson has had an outstanding career as a race  
4    car driver; and

5            Whereas, Jimmie Johnson began racing on 50cc motorcycles at the age of five and  
6    within a few years had moved to the 60cc motorcycle class, winning his first championship at  
7    the age of eight; and

8            Whereas, Jimmie Johnson began competing in the Mickey Thompson Entertainment  
9    Group Stadium Racing Series and later advanced to off-road racing; and

10           Whereas, in 1998, Jimmie Johnson began driving in the American Speed  
11    Association Series, earning the title of ASA Pat Schauer Rookie of the Year; and

12           Whereas, Jimmie Johnson raced in the NASCAR Busch Series beginning in 1998  
13    and posted his first Busch Series win in 2001 at the inaugural race at Chicagoland Speedway;  
14    and

15           Whereas, Jimmie Johnson began his career as a driver in the NASCAR Sprint Cup  
16    Series in 2002 driving the Lowe's #48 Chevrolet for Hendrick Motorsports and has been  
17    sponsored by North Carolina-based Lowe's Home Improvement Warehouse; and

18           Whereas, in 2002, Jimmie Johnson became the first rookie in NASCAR Sprint Cup  
19    racing to lead in the point standings, claiming three victories in his rookie campaign by winning  
20    twice at Dover International Speedway and once at California Speedway, and the first rookie in  
21    series history to sweep both races at a track; and

22           Whereas, in 2003, Jimmie Johnson finished second in the Sprint Cup point  
23    standings with three wins, 14 top-five finishes, 20 top-ten finishes, and two poles. He swept the  
24    May races at Lowe's Motor Speedway, capturing victories in the All-Star Race and the  
25    Coca-Cola 600, and won two races at New Hampshire International Raceway; and

26           Whereas, in 2004, Jimmie Johnson was able to complete the season with a  
27    second-place finish in the inaugural Chase for the NASCAR Sprint Cup Championship, had the  
28    most number of wins of any driver with eight victories, claimed 20 top-five and 23 top-10  
29    finishes, and led 24 races for a total of 1,312 points; and

30           Whereas, during the 2005 season, Jimmie Johnson's accomplishments included a  
31    fifth-place finish in the Chase for the NASCAR Sprint Cup Championship, the lead in point  
32    standings for 17 weeks, first-place finishes at Las Vegas Motor Speedway and Dover  
33    International Speedway, winning both points events at Lowe's Motor Speedway, and becoming  
34    the only driver ranked in the top 10 in point standings after every race during the season; and

35           Whereas, in 2006, Jimmie Johnson captured his first NASCAR Sprint Cup  
36    Championship at Homestead-Miami Speedway and became the only driver in the modern era to  
37    win at least three races in each of his first five full-time seasons; and



1           Whereas, at that time, Jimmie Johnson's success placed him among four other  
2 drivers in NASCAR's history to have won the Daytona 500 and the NASCAR Sprint Cup  
3 Championship in the same season and the title of Driver of the Year; and

4           Whereas, in 2007, Jimmie Johnson won his second consecutive Sprint Cup Series  
5 Championship and finished the season with 10 wins, 20 top-five finishes, 24 top-10 finishes,  
6 and four poles; and

7           Whereas, in November 2008, Jimmie Johnson's fifteenth-place finish in the Ford  
8 400 at Homestead-Miami Speedway earned him his third consecutive Sprint Cup  
9 Championship; and

10          Whereas, with this victory, Jimmie Johnson became the first person to win three  
11 back-to-back championships in 30 years since Cale Yarborough repeated three times from 1976  
12 to 1978; and

13          Whereas, Jimmie Johnson's third Sprint Cup Championship enabled him to become  
14 part of an elite class of three-time champions, which includes Richard Petty, Dale Earnhardt,  
15 Jeff Gordon, Darrell Waltrip, David Pearson, Lee Petty, and Cale Yarborough; and

16          Whereas, in 2009, Jimmie Johnson became the first driver in NASCAR history to  
17 win four consecutive Sprint Cup Series Championships; and

18          Whereas, Jimmie Johnson also won four races during the 10-race Chase for the  
19 Championship in 2009, tying his record of four wins in 2004 and 2007; and

20          Whereas, Jimmie Johnson was named the 2009 Male Athlete of the Year by the  
21 Associated Press, becoming the first race car driver to earn the award in its 78-year history; and

22          Whereas, during the off-season, Jimmie Johnson is a frequent guest on late night  
23 television shows and other media outlets; and

24          Whereas, Jimmie Johnson founded the Jimmie Johnson Foundation with his wife  
25 Chandra Johnson in February 2006 to assist children, families, and communities in need across  
26 the United States; and

27          Whereas, in March of 2006, the Jimmie Johnson Foundation established Victory  
28 Lanes, a bowling alley for campers with chronic and life-threatening illnesses at Kyle and  
29 Pattie Petty's Victory Junction Camp in Randleman, North Carolina; and

30          Whereas, Jimmie Johnson's achievements as a member of the Hendrick Motorsports  
31 team are a fitting memorial to the memory of William C. "Bill" France, known to the racing  
32 world as Bill France, Jr., who succeeded his father, William Henry Getty "Big Bill" France, as  
33 President of NASCAR, serving the company from 1972 to 2000; and

34          Whereas, Bill France, Jr., died on June 4, 2007, and is survived by his wife, Betty  
35 Jane, and children, Brian France and Lesa France Kennedy; Now, therefore,  
36 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

37          **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly congratulates Jimmie Johnson on earning his  
38 fourth consecutive NASCAR Sprint Cup Championship.

39          **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly honors the memory of William C. "Bill"  
40 France, Jr., and expresses its appreciation for his contributions to stock car racing.

41          **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this  
42 resolution to Jimmie Johnson and the family of William C. "Bill" France, Jr.

43          **SECTION 4.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.