

Senate Resolution 352

By: Senators Crotts of the 17th, Gillis of the 20th, Bowen of the 13th, Cagle of the 49th, Balfour of the 9th and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Expressing regret at the passing of Dale Earnhardt; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, on February 18, 2001, the NASCAR family lost its greatest and most popular
3 driver during an accident on the final lap of the Daytona 500; and
- 4 WHEREAS, he was born on April 29, 1951, in Kannapolis, North Carolina, the son of Ralph
5 "Ironheart" and Martha Earnhardt; and
- 6 WHEREAS, he began his racing career on the dirt tracks of North Carolina where his father
7 had raced, earning the nickname "Ironhead"; and
- 8 WHEREAS, in 1979, Dale "Ironhead" Earnhardt was Rookie of the Year in NASCAR
9 Winston Cup racing and, in 1980, was the NASCAR Winston Cup Champion, making him
10 the first driver to win the rookie title and the championship in back-to-back years, and, as his
11 legend grew, so did NASCAR's popularity; and
- 12 WHEREAS, the black No. 3 Chevrolet owned by Richard Childress and driven by "The
13 Intimidator" quickly became the highest standard of efficiency in stock car racing which all
14 other racing teams strived to attain; and
- 15 WHEREAS, as the patriarch of NASCAR racing, he came to be seen as a grand and grizzled
16 gentleman of the game, known as "The Man in Black," and dedicated himself to the love and
17 devotion of each fan; and
- 18 WHEREAS, he formed Dale Earnhardt Incorporated, an employer of 200 and a three-car
19 racing team including son Dale Earnhardt Jr.; Steve Park; and 2001 Daytona 500 winner
20 Michael Waltrip; and

1 WHEREAS, he was a man of conviction who fought unwavering battles for those things he
2 felt were in the best interest of NASCAR and became the standard bearer for professional
3 race car drivers; and

4 WHEREAS, at the Atlanta Motor Speedway, he had 47 starts, 9 wins, 27 top-five finishes,
5 31 top-ten finishes, and 5 pole positions, and he won his first career superspeedway race in
6 the Atlanta 500 in 1980; and

7 WHEREAS, in his 22 full seasons in NASCAR, he won 76 races , 22 pole positions, and 7
8 NASCAR Winston Cup Championships; and

9 WHEREAS, the members of the General Assembly who had the opportunity to know Dale
10 Earnhardt personally and to enjoy the charm and warmth of his engaging personality share
11 the intense sorrow that is being borne by his devoted wife, Teresa, and children Kerry, Kelly,
12 Dale Jr., and Taylor.

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
14 express their deepest and sincerest regret at the passing of Dale Earnhardt but take pride in
15 the memory of the fiercely competitive racing, fantastic finishes, and great excitement that
16 he brought to NASCAR and racing fans everywhere.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
18 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Dale Earnhardt.