

Senate Resolution 443

By: Senators Mullis of the 53rd, Rogers of the 21st, Pearson of the 51st and Smith of the 52nd

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and honoring Mr. Raymond Parks for his contributions to the sport of auto
2 racing; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, as a man of keen foresight, Mr. Raymond Parks was one of the first people to
4 realize the potential of auto racing to become a major spectator sport, and he spent great
5 sums of his own time and money to make it happen; and

6 WHEREAS, he owned a fleet of beautifully prepared race cars driven by the most talented
7 drivers of his time; and

8 WHEREAS, among those chosen elite who wheeled his cars were Bob Flock, Fonty Flock,
9 Lloyd Seay, Roy Hall, and Bill France, Sr., who went on to found NASCAR; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Parks's cars, prepared by Hall of Fame mechanic Red Vogt, were the class
11 of the field at most events, including NASCAR's first race in 1948 on the sand at Daytona
12 Beach, Florida; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Parks, who still operates several businesses from his office on Northside
14 Drive in Atlanta, owns dozens of trophies from races in the 1940's but left the sport soon
15 after his driver Red Byron won the inaugural championship of the division now known as
16 Nextel Cup in 1949; and

17 WHEREAS, in 1995, he was inducted into the National Motorsports Press Association Hall
18 of Fame and has also been inducted into the Georgia Automobile Racing Hall of Fame
19 Association; and

20 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia is celebrating Atlanta Motor Speedway Day at the Capitol
21 on March 16, 2005, and it is only fitting and proper that the remarkable achievements of this
22 hometown racing legend be appropriately recognized on this grand occasion.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
2 join in recognizing Mr. Raymond Parks and honor his legacy as a founding figure in the sport
3 of auto racing.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
5 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mr. Raymond Parks.