

Senate Resolution 25EX

By: Senator Jeffares of the 17th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Ed Clark and recognizing his contributions to the State of Georgia; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, since 1992 the State of Georgia has been proud to recognize former resident and
4 native of Virginia, Mr. Ed Clark, president and general manager of Atlanta Motor Speedway,
5 as one of this state's great citizens; and

6 WHEREAS, as a young reporter, he began covering the NASCAR circuit at a time when he
7 was not yet old enough to enter pit row, and that marked the beginning of what has become
8 a life long love for motor sports and NASCAR; and

9 WHEREAS, before the age of 25, Mr. Clark had assumed a leadership role in the
10 development and future of NASCAR when he was hired by Bristol International Speedway
11 to serve as the track's public relations director; and

12 WHEREAS, two short years later in 1979, he was hired for the position of Nashville
13 Raceway's general manager; and

14 WHEREAS, in 1981, Mr. Clark was brought on to be a part of the public relations
15 department at the esteemed Lowe's Motor Speedway in Charlotte, North Carolina, and he
16 would go on to hold the posts of public relations director and vice president of events during
17 his 11-year career at the track; and

18 WHEREAS, since 1992, he has faithfully and dutifully served Speedway Motorsports, Inc.,
19 and Atlanta Motor Speedway, first as the track's management team director and later as its
20 president; and

21 WHEREAS, while still the president of Atlanta Motor Speedway, he has also been elevated
22 to the position of executive vice president of Speedway Motorsports, Inc.; and

23 WHEREAS, under his guidance, Atlanta Motor Speedway has grown to become one of the
24 most prestigious and modern tracks in motor sports, and consequently the track and
25 Speedway Motorsports, Inc., have become one of the most valuable economic engines and
26 corporate citizens in all of Georgia; and

27 WHEREAS, the Atlanta Motor Speedway, a 1.54-mile quad-oval track, is one of the premier
28 motorsports facilities in the country and a great treasure to the Atlanta area and the State of
29 Georgia; and

30 WHEREAS, the Atlanta Motor Speedway was originally constructed in 1960 and is nestled
31 on 870 acres located just 30 minutes south of Atlanta and is the main contributor to the local
32 sports economy, bringing in more than \$455 million annually. This year the Labor Day
33 weekend race event will have a significant economic impact for the state, and the Atlanta
34 Motor Speedway will transform into the fourth largest city in the state for the weekend with
35 fans from all 50 states and at least 14 different countries; and

36 WHEREAS, the newest sponsor for this year, sponsoring the Sprint Cup Series Advocare
37 500, is Advocare, a premier health and wellness company offering world-class energy,
38 weight loss, nutrition, and sports performance products; and

39 WHEREAS, Mr. Clark is a tremendous civic leader and philanthropist; he has dedicated
40 himself and his time to such organizations as the Boy Scouts of America, the Speedway
41 Children's Charities Foundation, the Atlanta Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Henry
42 County Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Henry County Chamber of Commerce, the
43 Atlanta Sports Council, and the executive advisory board of CURE.

44 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that this body commends Ed
45 Clark for the exemplary leadership he has given in guiding Atlanta Motor Speedway and
46 Speedway Motorsports, Inc., and recognizes his many contributions to the State of Georgia
47 and its economy.

48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
49 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mr. Ed Clark.