

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 353

Commending R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company and its employees for their 33-year relationship with motorsports and their contributions to the sport of stock-car racing.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 3, 2003

Mr. BURR (for himself, Mr. BALLENGER, Mr. COBLE, Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. HOUGHTON, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mr. GOODE, Mr. FROST, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. HAYES, and Mr. JONES of North Carolina) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform

RESOLUTION

Commending R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company and its employees for their 33-year relationship with motorsports and their contributions to the sport of stock-car racing.

Whereas Richard Petty won the first Winston Cup Championship in 1971, with 21 race wins and \$300,000 in earnings;

Whereas, 31 years later, Tony Stewart won 3 races on the way to the Winston Cup Championship, with almost \$5 million in earnings and a bonus of \$3.75 million;

Whereas, in 2003, the Winston Cup Champion will take home a bonus of \$4.25 million, with all bonuses for the Win-

ston Cup Series reaching \$17 million, making it the richest year ever in stock car racing;

Whereas since Winston's initial involvement with NASCAR it has contributed \$101,290,000 in point fund money, with almost \$32 million earmarked for the Series champion;

Whereas the Winston Cup Series took the lead in motorsports attendance worldwide in 1976, with 1.5 million spectators;

Whereas the Winston Cup race at the Daytona 500 was televised in its entirety for the first time on February 18, 1979;

Whereas, 10 years later, every Winston Cup race was being televised;

Whereas, by 1994, the Winston Cup Series was drawing 5 million fans to 31 races, an average of more than 160,000 fans per event;

Whereas in 2003 the Winston Cup Series will draw millions of spectators to 39 events in 19 States, with additional millions following qualifying, practices, and races on television, radio, and the Internet;

Whereas the roster of Winston Cup Champions includes Richard Petty, Benny Parsons, Cale Yarborough, Dale Earnhardt, Darrell Waltrip, Bobby Allison, Terry Labonte, Bill Elliott, Rusty Wallace, Alan Kulwicki, Jeff Gordon, Dale Jarrett, Bobby Labonte, and Tony Stewart; and

Whereas over the course of more than 30 years, stock car racing under the NASCAR banner and R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company's sponsorship has grown from a regional sport with limited national exposure to one with a

loyal and global following of millions of fans: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) commends R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company
3 and its employees for their 33-year relationship with
4 motorsports and their contributions to the sport of
5 stock-car racing;

6 (2) recognizes the significant contribution the
7 company's sponsorship has made to the families and
8 communities associated with the sport and its tre-
9 mendous growth; and

10 (3) encourages NASCAR's new and future
11 sponsors to uphold and retain the traditions devel-
12 oped in the sport over the course of the last three
13 decades.

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