

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 78

Sponsors: Representatives Owens, Johnson, Lucas, Steen (Primary Sponsors);
M. Alexander, Carney, Coates, Cotham, Earle, Fisher, Frye, Gulley, Hall, Lewis,
Parmon, Randleman, Samuelson, Spear, Tarleton, and Wray.

Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

February 9, 2009

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

3 Whereas, at the age of 33, 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 became the first
21 rookie in series history to sweep both races at a track; and

22 Whereas, in 2003, Jimmie Johnson finished second in the Sprint Cup points
23 standing with three wins, 14 top fives, 20 top tens, and two poles. He swept the May races at
24 Lowe's Motor Speedway, capturing victories in the All-Star Race and the Coca-Cola 600, and
25 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



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

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

7 Whereas, in 2007, Jimmie Johnson won his second consecutive Sprint Cup Series
8 Championship and finished the season with 10 wins, 20 top-fives, 24 top-10s, and four poles;
9 and

10 Whereas, in November 2008, Jimmie Johnson's fifteenth-place finish in the Ford
11 400 at Homestead-Miami Speedway earned him his third consecutive Sprint Cup
12 Championship; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

34 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly congratulates Jimmie Johnson on earning his
35 third consecutive NASCAR Sprint Cup Championship.

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

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

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