

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2001**

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**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 301**

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Sponsors: Senators Bingham, Plyler, Cunningham; Allran, Ballance, Ballantine, Berger, Carpenter, Carrington, Carter, Dalton, Forrester, Foxx, Garrou, Garwood, Hagan, Hartsell, Horton, Hoyle, Kerr, Kinnaird, Lee, Lucas, Metcalf, Moore, Odom, Purcell, Rand, Robinson, Shaw of Cumberland, Shaw of Guilford, Swindell, Thomas, Warren, Weinstein, and Wellons.

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Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate.

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March 5, 2001

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF DALE  
2 EARNHARDT, LEGENDARY STOCK CAR RACER.

3 Whereas, Ralph Dale Earnhardt was born on April 29, 1951, on a farm in  
4 Kannapolis, North Carolina; and

5 Whereas, the son of a NASCAR driver Ralph Earnhardt, Dale Earnhardt  
6 developed a passion for stock car racing at an early age; and

7 Whereas, Dale Earnhardt began competing in local stock car races as a  
8 teenager, eventually competing on the Winston Cup circuit; and

9 Whereas, in 1975, Dale Earnhardt entered his first Winston Cup race at the  
10 Charlotte Motor Speedway; and

11 Whereas, in 1979, Dale Earnhardt won his first Winston Cup race at the  
12 Bristol Motor Speedway in Bristol, Tennessee, and later that year was named Rookie of  
13 the Year; and

14 Whereas, in 1980, Dale Earnhardt clinched the NASCAR Winston Cup  
15 championship, making him the first driver to win Rookie of the Year and the Winston  
16 Cup championship in successive seasons; and

17 Whereas, in 1984, Dale Earnhardt began driving for Richard Childress, and  
18 together they formed a formidable team achieving tremendous success on the racetrack;  
19 and

20 Whereas, Dale Earnhardt won NASCAR championships in 1986, 1987, 1990,  
21 1991, 1993, 1994, tying Richard Petty's impressive record for the most championships  
22 won in a single career of stock car racing; and

23 Whereas, during his career, Dale Earnhardt won 34 races at the Daytona  
24 track, the most of any driver in history, including the Daytona 500 in 1998; and

1           Whereas, Dale Earnhardt was the first three-time winner of the Winston  
2 Select and won three International Race of Champions (IROC) series championships;  
3 and

4           Whereas, in 1998, on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of NASCAR, Dale Earnhardt was  
5 named one of the sport's 50 greatest drivers; and

6           Whereas, Dale Earnhardt was nicknamed "The Intimidator" because of his  
7 aggressive and keen driving abilities; and

8           Whereas, Dale Earnhardt also found success as a businessman, including his  
9 ownership in other racing teams and as a farmer in Mooresville, North Carolina, and

10          Whereas, Dale Earnhardt died on February 18, 2001; and

11          Whereas, Dale Earnhardt is survived by his wife, Teresa Earnhardt; his  
12 children, Dale, Jr., Kerry, Kelly, and Taylor; his mother, Martha; and several siblings;  
13 and

14          Whereas, Dale Earnhardt was loved and admired by people from all around  
15 the world and will be greatly missed both on and off the racetrack; Now, therefore,  
16 Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

17          **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the memory of Dale Earnhardt  
18 and expresses the gratitude and appreciation of this State and its citizens for his life and  
19 accomplishments.

20          **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly extends its deepest sympathy to the  
21 family of Dale Earnhardt for the loss of a beloved family man and true friend.

22          **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this  
23 resolution to the family of Dale Earnhardt.

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