

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 322 Session of  
2007

INTRODUCED BY SCAVELLO, CARROLL, PEIFER AND SIPTROTH,  
JUNE 6, 2007

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
JUNE 6, 2007

## A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and achievements of former NASCAR chairman  
2 William C. France, Jr., and expressing condolences on his  
3 passing.

4 WHEREAS, Mr. France, who was chairman of International  
5 Speedway Corporation and NASCAR vice chairman, passed away at  
6 his Daytona Beach, Florida, home on June 4, 2007, at 74 years of  
7 age; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. France was instrumental in helping Pocono  
9 Raceway stay afloat during a tough period in the 1970s, when the  
10 track had become a pawn in the battle between two competing  
11 racing organizations; and

12 WHEREAS, Dr. Joseph Mattioli, owner of Pocono Raceway in Long  
13 Pond, site of two major NASCAR races each year, stated: "Pocono  
14 Raceway wouldn't be here if it wasn't for him"; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. France grew up at his father's Daytona Beach  
16 Road Course track, selling tickets and working at the concession  
17 stands; and

18 WHEREAS, Mr. France worked with the construction crews that

1 build the modern Daytona International Speedway; and

2 WHEREAS, Mr. France inherited the leadership of NASCAR from  
3 his father in 1972 and shaped the stock car-racing organization  
4 from a regional Southern sport into a billion-dollar industry;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. France continued as NASCAR president until 2000  
7 and served as chairman and CEO of NASCAR until October 2003 when  
8 he was replaced by his son, Brian; and

9 WHEREAS, Mike Helton, Nascar President, stated: "The good  
10 thing is he built a family-oriented sport that has a lot of  
11 depth and a lot of strength to it, it will go on. It will go on  
12 non-stop, and that's the greatest tribute to Bill France"; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. France was a member of the International  
14 Motorsports Hall of Fame, the Motorcycle Hall of Fame and the  
15 Automotive Hall of Fame; and

16 WHEREAS, Mr. France is survived by his wife, Betty Jane, son  
17 Brian, daughter Lesa France Kennedy, brother Jim and  
18 grandchildren; therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives note with deep  
20 sadness the passing of William C. France, Jr., and extend  
21 heartfelt condolences to his family.