HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 359

Commending Martinsville Speedway on the occasion of its 65th anniversary.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 17, 2012
Agreed to by the Senate, February 23, 2012

WHEREAS, sixty-five years ago on September 7, 1947, Martinsville Speedway opened as a dirt track with 750 seats; today, it seats 63,000; and

WHEREAS, the .526 mile world-famous Martinsville Speedway track known as the Paperclip provides exciting and unique racing not found anywhere else; and

WHEREAS, Martinsville Speedway, formed one year before NASCAR, has a long and distinguished presence in racing and is the only track in the world remaining on the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series schedule that was on the inaugural schedule in 1949; and

WHEREAS, since 1950, Martinsville Speedway has annually hosted two NASCAR races, each attracting approximately 75,000 race fans and enthusiasts; and

WHEREAS, Martinsville Speedway has an annual statewide economic impact in excess of $170 million benefiting the Commonwealth, its businesses and citizens, as well as promoting the Commonwealth to worldwide television and radio audiences; and

WHEREAS, Martinsville Speedway is also a major supporter of local businesses, economic development, and charity and fundraising opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Virginia is the only state that hosts four NASCAR Sprint Cup long weekends each year providing tremendous economic benefits to the Commonwealth, with each race weekend having the equivalent impact of a Super Bowl; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Martinsville Speedway on the occasion of its 65th anniversary of operation in the Commonwealth; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Martinsville Speedway as an expression of the General Assembly's appreciation for the company's many important contributions to the economies of the Commonwealth.