

2015 SPECIAL SESSION I

ENROLLED

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 561

Celebrating the life of Cerry Ezra Thomas.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, August 17, 2015

WHEREAS, Cerry Ezra Thomas, a driver in the National Association of Stock Car Auto Racing and a respected member of the Christiansburg community, died on June 4, 2015; and

WHEREAS, Cerry "Jabe" Ezra Thomas began his racing career on dirt tracks in southeastern Virginia, and he was named track champion at Radford Speedway in 1958; and

WHEREAS, in 1965, Jabe Thomas joined the National Association of Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR) Grand National Series, which is now known as the Sprint Cup Series; and

WHEREAS, between 1968 and 1971, Jabe Thomas ranked among the top 12 drivers on points each year, including a sixth-place ranking in 1971; during his career, he recorded three top-five finishes and 77 top-10 finishes; and

WHEREAS, Jabe Thomas inspired his son, Ronnie, to follow in his footsteps as a driver, and he served as a member of his son's team for many years; and

WHEREAS, earning many awards and accolades, Jabe Thomas was inducted into the Racers Reunion Memory Lane Hall of Fame with the Class of 2010; and

WHEREAS, Jabe Thomas will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by his wife of 65 years, Betty; son, Ronnie, and his family; and numerous other family members and friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Delegates hereby note with great sadness the loss of Cerry Ezra Thomas, a successful racecar driver and admired member of the Christiansburg community; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of Cerry Ezra Thomas as an expression of the House of Delegates' respect for his memory.

ENROLLED

HR561ER