

2016 SESSION

ENROLLED

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 245

Celebrating the life of William Roger Mutt Neece.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, March 11, 2016

WHEREAS, William Roger Mutt Neece of Clintwood, a champion short-track race car driver, retired coal mine foreman, and a devoted husband and friend, died on March 30, 2015; and

WHEREAS, Roger Neece, who graduated from Ervinton High School, was a coal miner for 34 years; he took up automobile racing when he was in his 30s, and with determination and support from his wife and a small group of friends, became a top competitor at venues in Southwest Virginia; and

WHEREAS, despite being a relative latecomer to short-track racing, Roger Neece soon drew great respect from racing fans throughout the region for his talent, class, and courage; he won 204 races and 10 championships in an outstanding racing career; and

WHEREAS, Roger Neece relied on only two vehicles as he competed on short tracks; a black Camaro with the number 22 painted on it—affectionately referred to as "Blackie"—and a Nova; his wife, Nancy, and some friends helped him in the pits during races; and

WHEREAS, not one for a showy display of bravado, Roger Neece was admired for his humility and tenacity; after every victory, he simply thanked fans and supporters for coming to the race and gave credit to his competitors for a clean and fair contest; and

WHEREAS, Roger Neece competed at Lonesome Pine Raceway and Kingsport Speedway, and after returning from a race often worked on his vehicle into the night; despite the grueling pace, a love of short-track racing was all that mattered to Roger Neece, winning was secondary; and

WHEREAS, Roger Neece will be greatly missed and fondly remembered by his wife, Nancy, and many other family members, friends, and race fans from throughout the region; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Delegates hereby note with great sadness the loss of William Roger Mutt Neece of Clintwood, a retired coal mine foreman who was an outstanding short-track automobile racer with 204 victories and 10 championships and who was a devoted husband and friend; 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 William Roger Mutt Neece as an expression of the House of Delegates' respect for his memory.

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