

## 2000 SESSION

ENROLLED

### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 76

*On the death of H. Clay Earles.*

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, January 21, 2000  
Agreed to by the Senate, January 27, 2000

WHEREAS, H. Clay Earles, the founder of the Martinsville Speedway and a NASCAR racing legend, died on November 16, 1999; and

WHEREAS, Clay Earles and his partners, Sam Rice and Henry Lawrence, opened the Martinsville Speedway in 1947 on a 30-acre site, one of the first of its kind in the nation; and

WHEREAS, Clay Earles was instrumental in organizing the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR), today one of the nation's leading sports; and

WHEREAS, Clay Earles built the speedway from a small arena with 5,000 seats to a racetrack complex covering more than 3,000 acres and featuring 86,000 seats, while introducing amenities that are now taken for granted, such as attended restrooms, permanent concession stands, first aid stations, and air conditioned press boxes; and

WHEREAS, born on August 11, 1913, on an Axton tobacco farm and educated in a one-room schoolhouse, Clay Earles' dedication to work and desire to succeed helped him rise from his humble beginnings to become a millionaire; and

WHEREAS, believing that everyone should serve his country, Clay Earles enlisted in the Naval Air Corps and served for two years during World War II and was honorably discharged as a petty officer second class at the war's end; and

WHEREAS, a devoted husband and father, Clay Earles built the Martinsville Speedway into a family enterprise, now managed by the family's third generation; and

WHEREAS, Clay Earles will be deeply missed by his family, his community, and generations of race fans; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly mourn the passing of H. Clay Earles, a pioneer in the history of NASCAR; 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 H. Clay Earles in recognition of his outstanding lifetime of achievements in the field of auto racing.

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