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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 417

Offered January 12, 2007

*Commending Denny Hamlin.*

Patrons—Watkins, Martin and Stosch

WHEREAS, Denny Hamlin, Chesterfield County native and acclaimed Joe Gibbs Racing driver, was named 2006 NASCAR Nextel Cup Series Raybestos Rookie of the Year; and

WHEREAS, born on November 18, 1980, Denny Hamlin, the son of Mary Lou and Dennis Hamlin, was a graduate of Manchester High School, Class of 1999; and

WHEREAS, during his go-kart career, Denny Hamlin won 127 races and five championships by the age of 16; and

WHEREAS, Denny Hamlin won Rookie of the Year in the NASCAR Weekly Racing Series Late Model Stock Car Division at Southside Speedway in Richmond; and

WHEREAS, in 2003, Denny Hamlin won 25 races in just 36 starts, claimed 33 Top 5 finishes, and won 30 poles in 36 starts in the NASCAR Late Model Stock Car Series, winning the Southern National Speedway Track Championship and finishing the year with the sixth highest NASCAR Competition Performance Index (CPI) rating in the nation; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, Denny Hamlin started his first career NASCAR Busch Series race at Darlington, South Carolina, the track known as "Too Tough To Tame," where he started in 27th place and finished eighth; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, Denny Hamlin finished fifth in the point standings in the NASCAR Busch Series with one Top 5 and 11 Top 10 finishes; and

WHEREAS, Denny Hamlin began his NASCAR Nextel Cup Series career by winning a pole and having three Top 10 finishes in seven starts for Joe Gibbs Racing; and

WHEREAS, on February 11, 2006, Denny Hamlin became the first rookie to win the Budweiser Shootout at Daytona International Speedway; and

WHEREAS, Denny Hamlin won both NASCAR Nextel Cup Series races from the pole at Pocono Raceway, as well as a pole at Richmond International Raceway in 2006; and

WHEREAS, Denny Hamlin became the first rookie to make the NASCAR Nextel Cup Series Chase for the Championship; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, Denny Hamlin had eight Top 5 and 20 Top 10 finishes in 36 races, finishing third in the NASCAR Nextel Cup Series point standings, the best finish of any rookie in NASCAR history; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly commend Denny Hamlin on his well-deserved recognition as 2006 NASCAR Nextel Cup Series Raybestos Rookie of the Year; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Denny Hamlin as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration of his outstanding accomplishments and best wishes for future success.

INTRODUCED

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