

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1563*

Sponsors: Senator Rand.

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate.

May 15, 2007

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING 2006 NASCAR NEXTEL CUP CHAMPION
2 JIMMIE JOHNSON.

3 Whereas, Jimmie Johnson began racing on 50cc motorcycles at the age of
4 five and within a few years had moved to the 60cc motorcycle class winning his first
5 championship at the age of eight; and

6 Whereas, Jimmie Johnson's racing career accelerated and he moved on to the
7 Mickey Thompson Entertainment Group Stadium Racing Series and later advanced to
8 off-road racing; and

9 Whereas, in 1998, Jimmie Johnson began driving in the American Speed
10 Association series. ASA racing was his first taste in pavement racing and he has never
11 looked back. He was named ASA Pat Schauer Rookie of the Year; and

12 Whereas, Jimmie Johnson raced in the NASCAR Busch series beginning in
13 1998 and posted his first Busch series win in 2001 at the inaugural race at Chicagoland
14 Speedway; and

15 Whereas, Jimmie Johnson began his career as a driver in the NASCAR
16 Nextel Cup series in 2002 driving the Lowe's #48 Chevrolet for Hendrick Motorsports.
17 His #48 Chevrolet has been sponsored by Lowe's Home Improvement Company, one of
18 North Carolina's true business success stories; and

19 Whereas, in 2002, Jimmie Johnson became the first rookie in NASCAR
20 Nextel Cup racing to lead in the point standings. He notched three victories in his rookie
21 campaign, winning twice at Dover International Speedway and once at California
22 Speedway. He is the first rookie in series history to sweep both races at a track; and

23 Whereas, in 2003, Jimmie Johnson finished second in the Nextel Cup points
24 standing with three wins, 14 top fives, 20 top tens, and two poles. His wins include
25 sweeping the May races at Lowe's Motor Speedway capturing victories in the All-Star
26 Race and the Coca-Cola 600 and two wins at New Hampshire International Raceway;
27 and

28 Whereas, in 2004, Jimmie Johnson was able to complete the season with a
29 second-place finish in the inaugural Chase for the NASCAR Nextel Cup Championship,

1 had the most number of wins of any driver with eight victories, claimed 20 top-five and
2 23 top-10 finishes, and led 24 races for a total of 1,312 points; and

3 Whereas, during the 2005 season, Jimmie Johnson's victories included a fifth-
4 place finish in the Chase for the NASCAR Nextel Cup Championship, the lead in point
5 standings for 17 weeks, first place finishes at Las Vegas Motor Speedway and Dover
6 International Speedway, won both points events at Lowe's Motor Speedway, and
7 became the only driver ranked in the top 10 in point standings after every race during
8 the season; and

9 Whereas, in 2006, Jimmie Johnson captured his first NASCAR Nextel Cup
10 Championship at Homestead-Miami Speedway and became the only driver in the
11 modern era to win at least three races in each of his first five full-time seasons; and

12 Whereas, Jimmie Johnson's success placed him among four other drivers in
13 NASCAR's history to have won the Daytona 500 and the NASCAR Nextel Cup
14 Championship in the same season and the title of Driver of the Year; and

15 Whereas, in 193 NASCAR Nextel Cup races, Jimmie Johnson had 27 wins,
16 nine poles, and 73 top-five and 117 top-10 finishes; and

17 Whereas, during the current 2007 season, Jimmie Johnson has posted four
18 wins, seven top-five finishes, and seven top-10 finishes; and

19 Whereas, when he is not racing, Jimmie Johnson hosts a weekly radio show
20 on XM Radio and is a frequent guest on late night television shows and other media
21 outlets; and

22 Whereas, Jimmie Johnson has also taken the time to give back to the
23 community, founding the Jimmie Johnson Foundation with his wife Chandra Johnson in
24 February 2006 to assist children, families, and communities in need; and

25 Whereas, in March of 2006 the Jimmie Johnson Foundation established
26 Victory Lanes, a bowling alley for campers with chronic and life-threatening illnesses at
27 Kyle and Pattie Petty's Victory Junction Gang Camp in Randleman, North Carolina; and

28 Whereas, Jimmie Johnson's achievements as a member of the Hendrick
29 Motorsports team, is a fitting memorial to Hendrick family members and others who
30 lost their lives during a plane crash in October of 2004 traveling to Martinsville
31 Speedway in Virginia; and

32 Whereas, those lost in the plane crash were Ricky Hendrick, John Hendrick,
33 Kimberly Hendrick, Jennifer Hendrick, Joe Jackson, Jeff Turner, Randy Dorton, Scott
34 Latham, Richard Tracy, and Elizabeth Morrison; Now, therefore,
35 Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

36 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly congratulates Jimmie Johnson on his
37 outstanding achievements as the NASCAR Nextel Cup Champion and expresses its
38 appreciation for the contributions he has made in the lives of the children who attend the
39 Victory Junction Gang Camp and the lives of needy families and children.

40 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly honors the memory of those who lost
41 their lives in the Hendrick plane crash on October 24, 2004, on the way to a NASCAR
42 race at the Martinsville Speedway in Virginia.

43 **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
44 resolution to Jimmie Johnson.

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SECTION 4. This resolution is effective upon ratification.