**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE THE FIRST ANNUAL LOVE CHEVROLET COLUMBIA SPEEDWAY SPRING FESTIVAL, TO BE HELD SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2009, IN HONOR OF COLUMBIA SPEEDWAY’S RICH STOCK‑CAR RACING HISTORY AND THE VETERAN DRIVERS WHO COMPETED THERE.

Whereas, from its first recorded race in 1948, which boasted ten thousand spectators, until it closed in 1978, the Columbia Speedway hosted racing events that became the source for much of stock‑car racing’s rich local history; and

Whereas, now, after more than thirty years, the speedway will reawaken on April 25, 2009, to host the First Annual Love Chevrolet Columbia Speedway Spring Festival, a fitting tribute to the speedway and the veteran drivers who once competed there; and

Whereas, presented by RacersReunion.com and sponsored by Love Chevrolet, the event will take place on the speedway’s grounds in Cayce and promises to become a highly anticipated yearly event, with its free, family‑oriented offerings; and

Whereas, attractions will include legendary racecar drivers making personal appearances, vintage racecars on display, a car show, and food, and fun for everyone; and

Whereas, attendees will be reminded of the many great NASCAR drivers who made Columbia Speedway a regular stop, a Who’s Who list that includes Lee and Richard Petty, Buck and Buddy Baker, Tim and Fonty Flock, Tiny Lund, Ned Jarrett, Fireball Roberts, Curtis Turner, Rex White, “Little” Bud Moore, Haskell Willingham, Junior Johnson, and a legion of others; and

Whereas, in addition, the event will celebrate famous moments in racing witnessed by the speedway, such as Buck Baker taking his first checkers at the finish line, Buddy Baker and Richard Petty making their racing debuts, Petty recording his first win, and NASCAR presenting its first Grand National/Cup night race; and

Whereas, the House of Representatives is pleased to honor the First Annual Love Chevrolet Columbia Speedway Spring Festival, and the members wish much success, now and in the future, to this notable undertaking. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognize the First Annual Love Chevrolet Columbia Speedway Spring Festival, to be held Saturday, April 25, 2009, in honor of Columbia Speedway’s rich stock‑car racing history and the veteran drivers who competed there.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Jeff Gilder, founder of RacersReunion.com.

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