**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE EVERETT “COTTON” OWENS OF SPARTANBURG ON THE OCCASION OF BEING SELECTED FOR INDUCTION INTO THE NASCAR HALL OF FAME, CLASS OF 2013.

Whereas, the House of Representatives is pleased to learn that Everett “Cotton” Owens of Spartanburg, American stock car racer, was announced as a member of the NASCAR Hall of Fame, Inductee Class of 2013, on May 23, 2012; and

Whereas, born May 21, 1924, in Union, Everett “Cotton” Owens began his career in the 1950s in what is now the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour. Known as the “King of the Modifieds,” Cotton earned over one hundred feature wins and was the 1953 and 1954 champion; and

Whereas, during the 1950s, he made the transition to the NASCAR Grand National Series. His first win came on February 17, 1957, at the series’ premiere event: the road course at Daytona Beach. The win was also Pontiac’s first NASCAR victory. For five straight years (1957‑61), he captured at least one Grand National (now Sprint Cup) series win; and

Whereas, as a car owner and driver, Cotton’s combined career statistics include forty‑one wins and thirty‑eight poles in 487 races. As an owner, Owens had some of the biggest names in the sport driving his cars over the years, including David Pearson (with whom he won the 1966 Grand National Championship), Buddy Baker, Pete Hamilton, Ralph Earnhardt, Bobby Isaac, Junior Johnson, Fireball Roberts, Mario Andretti, and Al Unser; and

Whereas, he came out of retirement in 1964 to prove he could beat fellow Spartanburg resident David Pearson, which he did in his final career win at Richmond. During their six seasons together, Cotton Owens and David Pearson combined for twenty‑seven wins in one hundred seventy races; and

Whereas, Cotton has been granted numerous awards throughout his life for his outstanding racing achievements. He has been inducted into the South Carolina Athletic Hall of Fame, International Motorsports Hall of Fame, and National Motorsports Press Association’s Hall of Fame at Darlington Speedway. In addition, he was named one of NASCAR’s 50 Greatest Drivers during NASCAR’s 50th Anniversary celebration in 1998; and

Whereas, in 2006, Governor Mark Sanford awarded Cotton the Order of the Palmetto, the highest civilian honor granted by the State of South Carolina. Further, Cotton Owens is a member of the Darlington Records Club, NASCAR Mechanics Hall of Fame, and NASCAR Legends. Among his other numerous awards, he was the recipient of the 2006 Living Legends of Auto Racing Pioneer of Racing Award and the 2000 Smokey Yunick Award for lifetime achievement in auto racing; and

Whereas, grateful for his commitment to excellence throughout a long and fruitful career, the House of Representatives takes great pleasure in commending Cotton Owens on his latest honor, selection for induction into the NASCAR Hall of Fame, Class of 2013. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate Everett “Cotton” Owens of Spartanburg on the occasion of being selected for induction into the NASCAR Hall of Fame, Class of 2013.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Everett “Cotton” Owens.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑