

HOUSE RESOLUTION 234

By Lundberg

A RESOLUTION to honor and celebrate Bristol Night Race Week, August 17-23, 2014, in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should honor and recognize those special events that contribute significantly to this nation's proud heritage of auto racing; and

WHEREAS, such an event is Bristol Night Race Week, August 17-23, 2014, held at Bristol Motor Speedway, famously known to race fans around the world as The Last Great Colosseum; and

WHEREAS, originally built in 1961 with a seating capacity of 18,000, the Bristol Motor Speedway had expanded to seat 71,000 race fans by 1996, when the facility was purchased by Bruton Smith and Speedway Motorsports, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, over the next nine years, the new owners added improvements and expanded the seating capacity to 160,000, making Bristol Motor Speedway one of the five largest permanent-seat sports facilities in the world; and

WHEREAS, today, Bristol Motor Speedway attracts approximately 1,000,000 visitors a year who hail from all fifty states and nineteen countries, and it has been named one of the thirty most important sports venues in the world; and

WHEREAS, Bristol Motor Speedway creates an economic impact of approximately \$400,000,000 annually and, through its Speedway Children's Charities chapter, donated nearly \$750,000 to regional children's charities last year and more than \$8,000,000 to charities in the last seventeen years; and

WHEREAS, it is highly appropriate that this body specially honor and celebrate such a tremendous sporting event for its economic impact, its charitable contributions, and its special place in the hearts of American racing fans; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby join with the citizens of Bristol and race fans around the globe as they celebrate Bristol Night Race Week, August 17-23, 2014, in Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.