

No. R-221. Senate concurrent resolution congratulating the Thunder Road International Speedbowl on its 50th anniversary season.

(S.C.R.28)

By Senators Scott, Cummings, Doyle, Ashe, Ayer, Bartlett, Brock, Campbell, Carris, Choate, Flanagan, Giard, Hartwell, Illuzzi, Kitchel, Kittell, Lyons, MacDonald, Maynard, Mazza, McCormack, Miller, Mullin, Nitka, Racine, Sears, Shumlin, Snelling, Starr and White,

By Representatives Koch of Barre Town, McFaun of Barre Town, McDonald of Berlin, Porier of Barre City and Taylor of Barre City,

Whereas, in 1960, Ken Squier, a young stock car racing announcer and occasional driver, decided to build a new racing venue in central Vermont, selecting Quarry Hill in Barre Town as the site, and

Whereas, on Thursday, June 30, 1960, the day of the week having been chosen because it was payroll day in most of Barre's granite quarries, the Thunder Road International Speedbowl opened its doors to an overflow audience in excess of 5,000 eager fans, and

Whereas, Thunder Road is a high-banked ¼ mile "short track" with a course featuring a narrow front stretch and a challenging "widowmaker" wall, and

Whereas, after Ken Squier sold Thunder Road in the 1970s, the track faced legal and economic problems that caused it to close intermittently, and

Whereas, recognizing the cultural, economic and social importance of Thunder Road in Barre, Ken Squier teamed with his new business partner, Tom Curley, to repurchase the track, and together they reinvigorated the sport of stock car racing in Vermont, and

Whereas, in 1988, Thunder Road's grandstand, buildings and other support facilities were extensively renovated, making the track far more pleasant for fans and drivers alike, and

Whereas, in 2004, Tom Curley was deservedly named the Auto Racing Promoter of the Year, and

Whereas, Thunder Road's 50th anniversary season of exciting stock car racing started on May 3, and, to celebrate, the track's management has announced that the front gate admission price will remain the same as last year throughout the season, and

Whereas, special 50th anniversary season highlights include the appearances of racing legend Bobby Allison and all-time stock car champion Richard Petty on June 18 and July 30, respectively, an appearance by famed driver Tony Stewart, who will compete in the Governor's Cup on June 25, and the much anticipated Chittenden Milk Bowl race, featuring nationally recognized late model car drivers, to conclude the season on September 27,
now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the Thunder Road International Speedbowl on its 50th anniversary season of great stock car racing, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send copies of this resolution to Tom Curley and Ken Squier.