

No. R-205. House concurrent resolution congratulating Robert Kilburn of Fair Haven on winning the 2024 Ken Schrader Real Racer of the Year Award.

(H.C.R.170)

Offered by Representatives Canfield of Fair Haven, Casey of Hubbardton, McCoy of Poultney, Priestley of Bradford, and Pritchard of Pawlet

Offered by Senators Benson, Collamore, Weeks, and Williams

Whereas, in the northern New England motor racing community, the white-haired and bearded, and red and white cap-wearing, Bob Kilburn is affectionately known as Santa Bob Kilburn, and he has developed an adoring fan base populated in good measure with children, and

Whereas, Santa Bob Kilburn was an enthusiastic young motor racing fan, but other than occasional go-kart driving, his motor racing career only started at fifty-seven and a half years of age, and

Whereas, despite this dubious and potentially reckless decision, Santa Bob Kilburn had the encouragement and support of his wife, Kris, and his audacious debut occurred at the Canaan (New Hampshire) Fair Speedway driving the racer Josh Constantine's former coupe, reminiscent of vintage 1960s and 1970s cars, and

Whereas, although he started in last place, Santa Bob Kilburn completed the race with his car in one piece, a major personal achievement, and

Whereas, Bear Ridge Speedway, a dirt track in Bradford, was his next venue, and the following year, he honed his driving skills at the then-paved Devil's Bowl Speedway, located just minutes from his Fair Haven home, and

Whereas, the next year, his perseverance at Devil's Bowl resulted in Rookie of the Year honors, and his fellow drivers saluted him with their peer-selected sportsmanship award, and

Whereas, on August 25, 2018, on a return visit to Bear Ridge Speedway, the then 62-year-old Santa Bob Kilburn realized his dream of clinching a race victory, and

Whereas, he and the far-younger drivers enjoy their mutual competition, and Santa Bob Kilburn, who has no biological children, boasts about his hundreds of children, meaning his numerous cheering young fans whom he befriends, and

Whereas, since 2012, the publication *Speedway Illustrated* has presented the Ken Schrader Real Racer of the Year Award, which recognizes "a special individual who demonstrates the ideal representation of being a 'Real Racer'," and in 2024, Santa Bob Kilburn was the deserved honoree, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Robert Kilburn of Fair Haven on winning the 2024 Ken Schrader Real Racer of the Year Award, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Santa Bob Kilburn.