

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007**

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 205*

Sponsors: Senator Goss.

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate.

February 20, 2007

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF BENNY
2 PARSONS, FORMER NASCAR DRIVER AND POPULAR SPORTSCASTER.

3 Whereas, Benny Parsons was born on July 12, 1941, in Wilkes County; and

4 Whereas, Benny Parsons graduated from West Wilkes High School and later
5 moved to Detroit, where he worked for a gas station and a cab company owned by his
6 father; and

7 Whereas, in 1963, Benny Parsons began stock car racing and, in 1965, earned
8 the Automobile Racing Club of America (ARCA) Rookie of the Year Award; and

9 Whereas, Benny Parsons went on to win ARCA championships in 1968 and
10 1969 before joining NASCAR in 1970; and

11 Whereas, Benny Parsons' first NASCAR victory was in 1971 at the South
12 Boston Speedway in Virginia, when he won the Winston Cup; and

13 Whereas, Benny Parsons won the NASCAR Winston Cup Championship
14 again in 1973 and later improved his success by winning the Daytona 500 in 1975 and
15 the World 600 in Charlotte in 1980; and

16 Whereas, Benny Parsons became the first NASCAR driver to qualify a stock
17 car over 200 mph, when he reached a speed of 200.176 mph during the Winston 500 at
18 the Talladega Superspeedway in 1982; and

19 Whereas, from 1964 through 1988, Benny Parsons competed in 526 races
20 compiling a record of 21 wins, 199 top-5 finishes, and 283 top-10 finishes; and

21 Whereas, Benny Parsons' outstanding racing skills earned him numerous
22 honors and awards; he became the first ARCA champion to be inducted into the
23 International Sports Hall of Fame in 1994, he was inducted into the Motorsports Hall of
24 Fame of America in 2006, and he was recognized as one of the 50 greatest drivers in
25 NASCAR history in 1998; and

26 Whereas, Benny Parsons retired from racing in 1988 and began a career in
27 broadcasting with ESPN in 1989; and

28 Whereas, while working at ESPN, Benny Parsons received an Emmy Award
29 for his exceptional reporting in 1996; and

1 Whereas, in 2001, Benny Parsons joined NBC and TNT as a NASCAR
2 announcer and color commentator; and

3 Whereas, Benny Parsons' other endeavors included serving as the host of the
4 "Fast Talk with Benny Parsons," a nationally syndicated radio show on Performance
5 Racing Network; and

6 Whereas, Benny Parsons served as a proprietor of Rendezvous Ridge Winery,
7 a 56-acre vineyard located near his boyhood home in Wilkes County on land that has
8 been owned by the Parsons family for many years; and

9 Whereas, Benny Parsons passed away on January 16, 2007; and

10 Whereas, Benny Parsons leaves to cherish his memory, his wife, Terri
11 Parsons, two sons, Kevin Parsons and Keith Parsons, and two grandchildren, Emily
12 Parsons and Libbie Parsons; and

13 Whereas, on January 30, 2007, Benny Parsons was posthumously awarded
14 the North Carolina Motorsports Association Achievement in Motorsports Tribute
15 Award and the Order of the Long Leaf Pine; Now, therefore,

16 Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

17 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the memory of Benny Parsons
18 and expresses its appreciation for his life and contributions to the field of motorsports.

19 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly extends its deepest sympathy to the
20 family of Benny Parsons for the loss of a beloved family member.

21 **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
22 resolution to the family of Benny Parsons.

23 **SECTION 4.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.