

By: Howard of Fort Bend

H.R. No. 2560

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Famed race car driver and native Texan A. J. Foyt is
2 celebrating the 50th anniversary of his first Indy car race this
3 year by competing as an owner and race strategist in his 50th
4 consecutive Indianapolis 500 on May 27, 2007; and

5 WHEREAS, Born January 16, 1935, in the Heights neighborhood
6 of Houston, Mr. Foyt learned both his work ethic and his passion for
7 racing from his father, a mechanic; and

8 WHEREAS, He began his professional career on the midget car
9 circuit, winning his first race at Playland Park in Houston in 1953;
10 he drove in his first race with championship, or Indy, cars in 1957,
11 on a dirt track in Springfield, Illinois; and

12 WHEREAS, The following year he competed in his first Indy
13 500, finishing 16th; in 1960 he won his first Indy car race; he won
14 the Indy 500 for the first time in 1961 and went on to become the
15 first driver to win the race four times; and

16 WHEREAS, In spite of a number of career-threatening accidents
17 and injuries, Mr. Foyt compiled one of the most remarkable records
18 in racing in his 35 years as a driver; he has won races in NASCAR and
19 USAC stock cars, midgets, IMSA sports cars, and at Le Mans; with 172
20 major races and 12 national titles, he holds records with 67 career
21 victories, seven national championships, and 10 victories in one
22 season; he is the only driver to have won the Indy 500, the Daytona
23 500, and Le Mans; and

24 WHEREAS, Since his retirement from driving Indy cars in 1993,

1 at the age of 58, the indefatigable Mr. Foyt has continued to
2 compete as the owner and strategist of A. J. Foyt Racing Ltd.; his
3 career has been recognized by many awards, including his induction
4 in the National Motorsports Hall of Fame and the Sprint Car Hall of
5 Fame; recently he was voted the Driver of the Century by the
6 Associated Press; and

7 WHEREAS, This notable Texan's talent, determination, and
8 toughness are well worthy of recognition and celebration, and his
9 competitive spirit and refusal to give up, from "Gentlemen, start
10 your engines!" to the checkered flag, make him an inspiration to all
11 who know him; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
13 Legislature hereby congratulate A. J. Foyt on his 50 years of Indy
14 car racing and extend to him best wishes for the future; and, be it
15 further

16 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
17 prepared for Mr. Foyt as an expression of high regard by the Texas
18 House of Representatives.