

Senate Resolution 835

By: Senator Gooch of the 51st

#### A RESOLUTION

- 1 Commending Bill Elliott for his amazing racing career; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Bill Elliott was born in Dawsonville, Georgia, on October 8, 1955; and
- 3 WHEREAS, in 1976, at the tender age of 20, Bill Elliott entered his first Winston Cup race  
4 and launched a career that would span more than three decades; and
- 5 WHEREAS, known for his friendly manner and down-to-earth personality, this native  
6 Georgian is a record 16 time winner of the National Motorsports Press Association's Most  
7 Popular Driver award; and
- 8 WHEREAS, his victories in the Daytona 500, the Winston 500 at Talladega, and the  
9 Southern 500 at Darlington earned him the first million dollar bonus in NASCAR history and  
10 the nickname "Million Dollar Bill"; and
- 11 WHEREAS, he sat on the pole at Talladega at more than 212 miles per hour on  
12 April 30, 1987; and
- 13 WHEREAS, after finishing second in the series standings twice, he claimed the Cup series  
14 championship in 1988 while driving for Michigan industrialist Harry Melling; and
- 15 WHEREAS, he was the first Winston Cup driver to appear on the cover of *Sports Illustrated*,  
16 and in 2006, Harper Entertainment published his book, *Awesome Bill from Dawsonville*; and
- 17 WHEREAS, he started his own team in 1996, and in 2000, he celebrated the grand occasion  
18 of his 25th anniversary in the NASCAR Winston Cup Series; and
- 19 WHEREAS, he won six times in 1998, finishing eleventh in the final race of the season in  
20 Atlanta to claim the championship on November 20, 1998; and

21 WHEREAS, he captured the checkered flag twice in a row in 2002 when he won both the  
22 Pennsylvania 500 and the Brickyard 500; and

23 WHEREAS, he created the Bill Elliott Driver Development program, which mentors young  
24 drivers through the highs and lows of racing life, as a way to pay forward the years of  
25 support, guidance, and hard work from family, friends, and fans that catapulted him to  
26 stardom in NASCAR's top series; and

27 WHEREAS, he was inducted into the NASCAR Hall of Fame in January, 2015; and

28 WHEREAS, in 2018, we celebrate the 30th anniversary of his NASCAR championship; and

29 WHEREAS, Bill Elliott has participated in close to 800 races, achieved 44 wins, collected  
30 55 career poles, and amassed winnings of \$73 million, yet he has remained a humble man  
31 and a positive role model throughout his vast successes, making it fitting and proper to call  
32 him a champion.

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
34 commend Bill Elliott for his outstanding racing career and wish him many more years of  
35 success and happiness.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
37 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Bill Elliott.