

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1841

A RESOLUTION celebrating the 50th anniversary of the National Hot Rod Association's first national race by declaring the period May 21 to 30 as Kansas Drag Racing Week.

WHEREAS, Soon after the end of World War II young men were celebrating the exuberance of their youth by participating in a sport that became known as drag racing. Whether on a dry salt lake in California, a former World War II airstrip or a secluded straight strip of highway, one racer pitted his car against another in a race to determine which could travel a quarter mile in the quickest time; and

WHEREAS, Wally Parks, an Oklahoma native who moved to California and observed his first dry lake speed trials prior to World War II, became editor of the monthly enthusiast magazine Hot Rod and used this forum to found the National Hot Rod Association in 1951. In 1955 the organization held its first national event, called simply "The Nationals" at a former World War II airfield at Great Bend, Kansas. The 1955 Nationals was the first televised track event, but the event had to be moved to a new venue at the end of three days because of a "gulley washer" which washed away the hay bales acting as guard rails. The track today is a National Historic Site. Charter members and founders include Bob Engle, Earl McDonald, J.D. Murray, Dale Swalander and LeRoy Foos with Mr. Foos and Mr. Engle still living in the Great Bend community; and

WHEREAS, Today, the National Hot Rod Association is the world's largest motorsports sanctioning body with 80,000 members, 140 member tracks, more than 35,000 licensed competitors and more than 5,000 member-track events; and

WHEREAS, On May 21 to 23 the refurbished track at Great Bend, now the Sunflower Rod and Custom Drag Strip, will be the site of the Lucas Oil Drag Racing Series celebrating the 50th anniversary of drag racing, and the following weekend May 27 to 30 the O'Reilly Summer Nationals will be held in Topeka at Heartland Park. Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That in recognizing the 50th anniversary of the National Hot Rod Association's first Nationals at Great Bend, and the two forthcoming association events in Kansas, we declare the period May 21 to 30 as Kansas Drag Racing Week; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate provide an enrolled copy of this resolution to Ron Conner, Division Services Coordinator, West Central Division of the National Hot Rod Association, 3720 Arrowhead Avenue, Suite 103, Independence, MO 64057.

Senate Resolution No. 1841 was sponsored by Senator Ruth Teichman.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

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*President of the Senate.*

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*Secretary of the Senate.*