

**SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. _____**

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION memorializing Tom Carnegie.

DELPH, MERRITT

_____, read first time and referred to Committee on



Introduced

First Regular Session 117th General Assembly (2011)

**SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. _____**

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION memorializing Tom Carnegie.

Whereas, Tom Carnegie, the iconic voice of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, passed away on February 11, 2011, at the age of 91;

Whereas, Over the course of Carnegie's amazing 61-year tenure, he called 61 Indianapolis 500s, 12 Brickyard 400s, and 6 United States Grand Prix races for millions of fans at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway;

Whereas, Carnegie's signature phrases will live forever in the hearts of race fans. "Heeee's on it" in describing the start of an official qualifying attempt. "Heeeeere's the time and speed report!" and following a particularly good qualifying run, "...race fans, you are not going to believe this...iiiiit's a nnnnnewwww traaaack record!";

Whereas, Carnegie was born Carl Lee Kenagy in Norwich, Connecticut on September 25, 1919. Carnegie's father was a Baptist minister, which led to his family moving the family to Connecticut, Iowa, Michigan, and Missouri;

Whereas, Carnegie graduated from William Jewel College in 1942. He played on the college baseball team and was an aspiring actor before becoming afflicted with a polio



type illness during his junior year in college, which led to partial paralysis in his leg;

Whereas, Carnegie's illness prompted him to focus on public speaking and broadcasting. He entered extemporaneous speech and debate competitions, quickly becoming an outstanding debater. He eventually entered into and won a sports radio contest;

Whereas, Upon graduating from William Jewel College, Carnegie took his first radio job with WOWO radio in Fort Wayne, Indiana, where he took the name Tom Carnegie, because the station manager thought it would sound better on air. This was because WOWO was owned by Westinghouse in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and the name Carnegie was prominent in Pittsburgh;

Whereas, In 1945, Carnegie moved to Indianapolis, Indiana, where he became sports director at radio station WIRE, and began writing sports columns for the Indianapolis Star;

Whereas, In 1946, just days before the "500," Carnegie was working as the emcee at a vintage car show when he was approached by new track president Wilbur Shaw, who had heard Carnegie's work, and consequently Shaw invited Carnegie to assist with the public address on Race Day;

Whereas, Carnegie accepted Shaw's offer. He met Indianapolis Motor Speedway owner Tony Hulman, who had just bought and renovated the dilapidated track that had been idle during World War II. Hulman hired the young broadcaster, who at the time knew nothing about auto racing;

Whereas, "Nobody gave me any help or anything like that," Carnegie once said in an interview with WRTV. "I just had names and numbers, like calling a football game. And I somehow got through it and satisfied Wilbur Shaw and



Tony Hulman because they asked me to come back next year, and I've been there ever since";

Whereas, WRTV, then WFBM-TV, hired Carnegie in 1953 as sports director. During his tenure, Carnegie traveled to Japan (1960 Tokyo Olympics) and Mexico to cover the Olympics. His broadcasting career spanned three decades, before retiring from WRTV in 1985;

Whereas, Carnegie served as the public address announcer for the Indiana State High School Basketball championships, most memorably serving as the PA announcer when underdog Milan High School famously won the Indiana state high school basketball championship in 1954. This led to a cameo in the 1986 film "Hoosiers," which famously captured the legendary championship run of Milan High School;

Whereas, Carnegie shared a signature moment with renowned driver A.J. Foyt. During practice in 1993, Foyt joined his friend at the pit row broadcasting platform. There, Foyt announced his retirement. Carnegie said he "always felt honored that he did that." Foyt found that funny. The honor had been his;

Whereas, Carnegie's career spanned six decades, tracing the sport's evolution from the front-edge roadsters of the 1940s to today's sleek rear-engine, high-tech racers. When he started, women were not even allowed in the pits; by the time he retired, several women were regulars in the Indianapolis 500;

Whereas, Carnegie retired in 2006. He briefly came out of his retirement on May 12, 2007 to call A.J. Foyt's qualification run;

Whereas, Carnegie is a member of the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame, the Associated Press Hall of Fame, and the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Hall of Fame;



Whereas, Upon Carnegie's passing, scores of racing icons have expressed their appreciation for the legendary broadcaster. Roger Penske said in a statement, "Tom Carnegie was a true gentleman and a legend at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway and throughout the state of Indiana. For so many years, his unmistakable voice signified the beginning of the month of May and the Indianapolis 500. We will certainly miss Tom and his spirit, his unique style of announcing and his passion for racing";

Whereas, A.J. Foyt said of his friend, "I know a lot of people that work there, at the Speedway, and they do a good job, but you only have one Tom Carnegie. It's kind of like Bobby Knight in basketball. There's only one Bobby Knight and there will never be another one. Or like Mario Andretti or A.J. Foyt";

Whereas, Racing icon Michael Andretti said, "Tom was one of a kind and was as much a part of Indianapolis Motor Speedway and the Indy 500 as the yard of bricks. Even though he is gone, I think you'll always hear his voice when you think of the Speedway or the 500. He was the voice for so many great moments in the history of that place and he will never be replaced. He was the best";

Whereas, John Andretti added, "I remember going to the track as a kid with my father (Aldo), uncle (Mario) and cousin (Michael) in the month of May and hearing his voice and the phrase, 'A new track record!' That excitement he made you feel. He made the hairs on your neck stand. The track will remain the same, but its voice will never be";

Whereas, Carnegie is survived by his wife, D.J., and their three children; Blair, Charlotte, and Robert. A public memorial service for Carnegie was held February 15, 2011 at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Hall of Fame Museum; and

Whereas, As the voice of the Indianapolis Motor



Speedway for six decades, Tom Carnegie's iconic voice will forever be associated with the 500. Hoosiers everywhere have lost a true broadcasting legend, and his enduring legacy will live on: Therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana, the House of Representatives concurring:

- 1 SECTION 1. The Indiana General Assembly memorializes Tom
- 2 Carnegie.
- 3 SECTION 2. The Secretary of the Senate is hereby directed to
- 4 transmit a copy of this Resolution to Tom Carnegie's wife, D.J., and
- 5 their three children; Blair, Charlotte, and Robert.

