

HR326 INTRODUCED



1 HR326
2 SLMRV58-1
3 By Representatives Gidley, Faulkner, Ensler
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 01-May-25



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4 HR_____ PROCLAIMING MAY 4, 2025, AS ROBERT SHWARTZMAN DAY.
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6 WHEREAS, the Alabama-Israel Caucus, Project O.I.L.,
7 Incorporated, and She Leads Alabama, alongside their
8 members, affiliate organizations, and people they serve,
9 unite in celebrating the remarkable achievements of Robert
10 Shwartzman, the first Israeli driver to take to the track;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, on May 4, 2025, Robert Shwartzman will be
13 recognized at the Children's of Alabama Indy Grand Prix at
14 Barber Motorsports Park in Birmingham, Alabama; and

15 WHEREAS, we extend our prayers and support for
16 Shwartzman's qualification in the Indy 500, an
17 accomplishment that would mark him as the first Jewish
18 driver to compete in the prestigious race since Mauri Rose's
19 third victory in 1948, the same year the Nation of Israel
20 was reestablished; and

21 WHEREAS, born in Tel Aviv, Israel, Shwartzman's
22 passion for racing began at the young age of four in St.
23 Petersburg, Russia, guided by his father; his family later
24 moved to Italy, where he flourished in karting, earning
25 numerous European titles before transitioning to single-seat
26 racing in the F4 series at age 14, rapidly climbing the
27 ranks; and

28 WHEREAS, his journey exemplifies the belief that all



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29 young athletes deserve the right to participate in sports
30 within a diverse, equitable, supportive, and safe
31 environment; mentored by his father and guided by skilled
32 coaches, his career ascended as a member of the Ferrari
33 Driver Academy, racing for PREMA, winning the FIA F3
34 Championship in 2019, finishing second in the FIA F2
35 Championship in 2021, and ultimately serving as Scuderia
36 Ferrari's test and reserve driver from 2022 to 2024; and

37 WHEREAS, for years, Shwartzman raced under a Russian
38 license; however, following the Russian invasion of Ukraine
39 in 2022, the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile
40 barred drivers from competing under the Russian flag; while
41 many opted for a neutral classification, Shwartzman proudly
42 reclaimed his Israeli identity; and

43 WHEREAS, PREMA, in its decision to field its first
44 INDYCAR team in America, selected Shwartzman based on his
45 extensive experience in Formula 1 and endurance racing; in
46 2024, he claimed victory at the Lone Star Le Mans event in
47 Austin, Texas, as part of the World Endurance Championship;
48 his previous accolades include earning the title of European
49 Formula 3 Rookie Champion in 2018; and

50 WHEREAS, Shwartzman's deep-seated passion lies in
51 winning races and raising the Israeli flag as a symbol of
52 perseverance, proving that Israel remains strong and is
53 still inspiring countless individuals through the resilience
54 of the Jewish people; his journey offers an opportunity to
55 forge new friendships across the United States and introduce
56 INDYCAR to fans worldwide; and



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57 WHEREAS, the Alabama-Israel Caucus, Project O.I.L.,
58 Incorporated, and She Leads Alabama honor Alabama's historic
59 support for Israel before its reestablishment as a nation;
60 now therefore,

61 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
62 LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That in recognition of his
63 outstanding contributions to professional motorsports and
64 his commitment to inspiring young athletes to pursue their
65 dreams, we, on behalf of Project O.I.L., Incorporated, and
66 She Leads Alabama, do hereby proclaim May 4, 2025, as Robert
67 Shwartzman Day in the State of Alabama.
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