

**Caroline County
Board of Supervisors Agenda
Executive Summary**

Meeting Date: September 27, 2022

Title: Consent Agenda – Proposed Resolution Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Caroline County, Virginia’s Triple Crown Champion Secretariat

(Check Mark)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent	<input type="checkbox"/> Closed Meeting
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing
<input type="checkbox"/> No Action (Information Only)	<input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance
<input type="checkbox"/> Resolution	<input type="checkbox"/> PowerPoint Presentation

Summary: Attached is a proposed resolution from Economic Development Director Gary Wilson commemorating the upcoming 50th anniversary of Secretariat’s winning the Triple Crown in 1973. The resolution will be used to request a similar resolution from the Virginia General Assembly during its 2023 session.

Budget Impact: N/A

Requested Action from Board of Supervisors: Authorize submittal of proposed resolution to the General Assembly

Memorandum

To: Caroline County Board of Supervisors
From: Director of Economic Development
Re: Resolution prepared for the General Assembly Honoring Secretariat's 50th
Anniversary of Winning the Triple Crown
Date: September 27, 2023

The resolution honoring Secretariat's 50th anniversary of winning the Triple Crown is offered by Staff to be taken up in time to be submitted to the General Assembly for the 2023 session. Secretariat's birth in Caroline County at Meadow Farm, and his triumphant success as a thoroughbred champion, represents a half-century of unequalled excellence in the "sport of kings", that warrants recognition.

The text of the resolution is itself significant as it is mainly drafted by the venerable sports writer, William Nack (1941-2018) for Caroline County in 2003.

Staff has added some minor editing: such as the original draft occurred before the official time for Secretariat's Preakness run was recognized as the track record; replaced, "Horsemen", with "equestrians", and strengthened the emphasis of the breeding record of Secretariat to reflect that his blood line has been successful, as being found in many subsequent champions, such as Lady's Secret, Tabasco Cat, and recent Triple Crown winner, Justify.

Secretariat remains an effective good will ambassador for Caroline County. The Meadow hosts a Secretariat festival annually, a museum effort is often discussed, a statue is being considered for Virginia, and travelers to the Caroline Visitor Center are introduced to the legacy of Secretariat. Continuing to promote Secretariat is in the County's best interest; and, it may be suggested, the County's privilege to continue to demonstrate that greatness and consequential history can originate in Caroline.

Staff seeks the Board's approval of the text to be sent to the General Assembly via Delegate, Hyland "Buddy" Fowler.

A proposed resolution for the General Assembly of 2023 commemorating the 50th anniversary of Caroline County's Secretariat Winning the Triple Crown:

**A Resolution Commemorating the 50th Anniversary
of
Caroline County, Virginia's Triple Crown Champion, Secretariat**

WHEREAS, Secretariat was born 50 years ago on March 30, 1970 at Meadow Farm, in Caroline County, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Secretariat was unanimously voted America's Horse of the Year as a two-year-old in 1972, the first juvenile ever so honored in history; and

WHEREAS, Secretariat, as a three-year-old in 1973, became the first thoroughbred in 25 years to win racing's coveted Triple Crown—the Kentucky Derby in Louisville, the Preakness Stakes in Baltimore, and the Belmont Stakes in New York—in the brief span of five weeks; and

WHEREAS, Secretariat, the strapping chestnut colt, accomplished the unprecedented feat of breaking the stakes' record in all three Triple Crown races, including the one and quarter miles Kentucky Derby in one minute and 59 and two-fifth seconds, the one mile and three-sixteenth Preakness Stakes in one minute and fifty-three seconds, and the one and half-mile Belmont Stakes in two minutes, twenty-four seconds flat; and

WHEREAS, Secretariat's astonishing 31-length victory in the Belmont Stakes is widely perceived as the single greatest performance in the history of the ancient sport of kings; and

WHEREAS, Secretariat was again voted America's Horse of the Year at the conclusion of the 1973 season; and

Whereas, Secretariat, as a breeding stallion, had a lasting impact on the thoroughbred breed, especially through his daughters from whom additional champions have been issued; and

Whereas, Secretariat, who succumbed in 1989, is today considered by many equestrians to be the greatest thoroughbred in the modern history of American turf,

and is the standard of excellence against which all other racehorses have been measured for a half of a century; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commemorates the 50th anniversary of Secretariat's winning the Triple Crown; and be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Caroline County Board of Supervisors, representing the citizens of Caroline County, as an expression of the esteem in which the memory of Secretariat, the finest athlete ever born in the Commonwealth, is held by the members of the General Assembly.