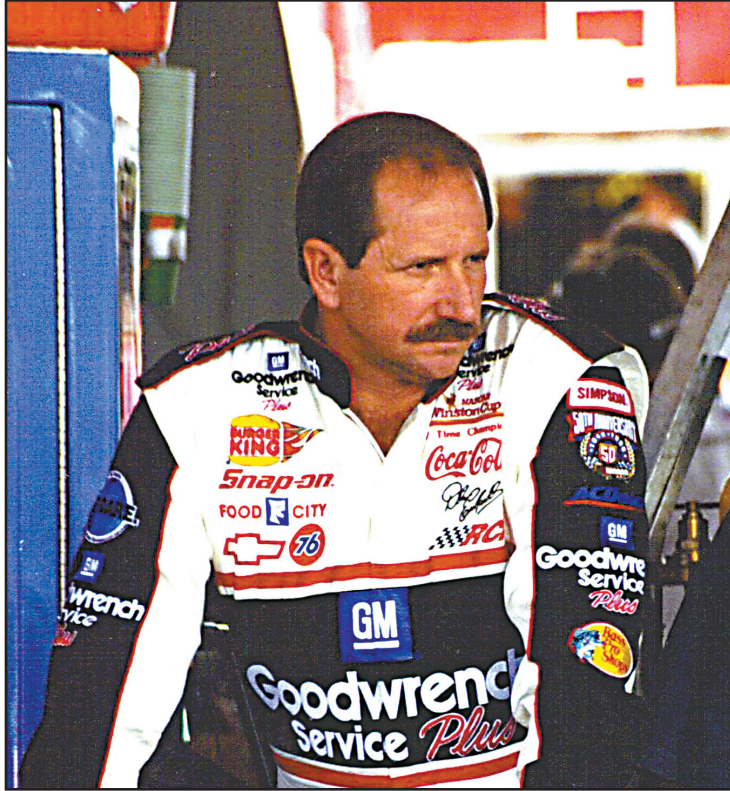


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I would hope that Dale would lobby for the fair traditions of racing. Green-white-checkered and double file restarts are not fair. Both promote wrecking—not racing!

In a pre-race interview before the 1997 Diehard 500, Ned Jarrett asked Dale, “You got plenty of money, don’t need that to keep racing. Is it worth the risk to keep on going?” Dale replied, “Sure, to win. I mean—that’s what we’ve always done. The money’s never been a factor. We raced when we didn’t have any!”

Later in the same interview, Ned inquired, “I think Dale Earnhardt is the best race driver that has ever been in a stock car. How do you feel about that?” Dale, sort of stumbling by the compliment, humbly responded, “Ah Ned, that’s a big statement—you know I think my dad was the greatest when it comes to racers—and Richard Petty and all these guys—I just love to race, Ned. I don’t claim to be the best—I like to win and we’ve really been fortunate to accomplish a lot in racing.”

Friends, I truly believe that Earnhardt would still be with us—had he been racing to win on that February afternoon in 2001. He had a great car that day; perhaps even good enough to win his second Daytona 500.

However, in a un-Earnhardt-like manner, Dale was not driving aggressively on that day—but selflessly—hoping to defend Michael Waltrip and Dale, Jr. from the pack as they raced each other for their first Daytona victory.

A note of interest—in Earnhardt’s crashed car, there was a Bible Scripture taped to his dash: The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe. Proverbs 18:10

Well race fans—I agree with Ned! Dale Earnhardt was the best driver to ever buckle up in a stock car. He was a racer’s racer and no one will ever replace him on or off the track! All true race fans will always miss him.

*A long, long time ago...
We can still remember
How that NASCAR used to make us smile.
And we knew if we had our chance
That we could watch those racecars dance
And, maybe, we’d be happy for a while.*

*But February made us shiver
A tragic crash did deliver.
Bad news to our doorstep;
We couldn’t take one more step.*

*I can remember that we cried
When we read about his widowed bride,
And something touched us deep inside
The day that NASCAR died.*

-Commentary by Rocky Sinyard
-Archived MSA Photos: Fred Hanyon



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Now accepting advance orders for the LIMITED EDITION 2011 Dale Earnhardt poster, signed and numbered by the artist. The poster commemorates “The Intimidator’s” last win at Talladega Superspeedway in the year 2000. Poster size is 13” x 19”, suitable for framing. Only \$25, includes S&H. Commissioned by MSA and created by portatit artist, Sid Maurer. For more information and detailed image of poster, visit www.motorsportamerica.com