

## 2000 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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### SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 90

Offered January 18, 2000

*Celebrating the life of Spencer Levi Harris, Sr.*

Patrons—Marsh, Couric, Edwards, Howell, Lambert, Maxwell, Miller, Y.B., Puckett, Reynolds, Saslaw, Whipple and Williams; Delegates: Armstrong, Bloxom, Cranwell, Deeds, Jackson, Johnson, Van Landingham and Weatherholtz

WHEREAS, Spencer Levi Harris, Sr., of Kenbridge, a deacon of St. Matthew's Baptist Church in Kenbridge and a man widely known for his warmth and hospitality, died on December 30, 1999, at the age of 87; and

WHEREAS, Spencer Levi Harris, Sr., joined St. Matthew's Baptist Church at an early age and served the church faithfully for many years and in many roles, including president of the Usher Board, treasurer of the church, secretary of the Deacon Board and member of the Trustee Board; and

WHEREAS, Deacon Harris was the patriarch of a large and devoted family consisting of five children, 21 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, and a host of great-great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, when Deacon Harris' sister was killed in a tragic traffic accident, he willingly became the father of her 11 children, the youngest of whom were six-month-old twins; and

WHEREAS, lovingly known locally as the "Black Mayor of Kenbridge," Deacon Harris was a farmer known county-wide for his sweet potato crop and for his legendary hospitality to friends and strangers alike; and

WHEREAS, a popular and respected citizen and a leader in his church, Deacon Harris will be sorely missed by his large and loving family, by the parishioners of St. Matthew's Baptist Church, and by his countless friends and admirers in the Kenbridge community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly mourn the passing of a fine Virginian, Spencer Levi Harris, Sr.; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of Spencer Levi Harris, Sr., as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for his memory.

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