

2006 SESSION

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 225

Offered February 15, 2006

Commending the Harrison Museum of African American Culture on the occasion of its 20th anniversary.

Patrons—Edwards and O'Brien

WHEREAS, the Harrison Museum of African American Culture will celebrate its 20th anniversary on March 4, 2006; and

WHEREAS, built in 1916, the Harrison Museum of African American Culture is located on the ground floor of the former Harrison School in Roanoke, which was the first public high school built for African American students in Southwest Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the Harrison Museum of African American Culture is designated as a Virginia and National Historic Landmark because of its importance in the history of the African American community of the Roanoke Valley; and

WHEREAS, the renovation of the Harrison School and the establishment of the museum and cultural center on October 25, 1985, was an important project initiated by the Northwest Neighborhood Improvement Council, Inc., the City of Roanoke, and Total Action Against Poverty in the Roanoke Valley, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, the Harrison Museum's mission is "to research, preserve and interpret the achievements of African Americans, specifically in Southwestern Virginia, and to provide an opportunity for all citizens to come together in appreciation, enjoyment and greater knowledge of African American culture"; and

WHEREAS, photographs, documents, oral history exhibits, African art, and memorabilia relating to the African American experience in the Roanoke Valley are among the fascinating and invaluable objects that make up the Harrison Museum's permanent collection; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, the annual Henry Street Heritage Festival, celebrated on the last Saturday in September in Elmwood Park, was established and sponsored by the Harrison Museum to honor the rich history and culture of people of African descent; and

WHEREAS, the Harrison Museum of African American Culture provides a unique experience and an outstanding tribute to the significant contributions of African Americans to the life and culture of the Roanoke Valley; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly commend the Harrison Museum of African American Culture on the occasion of its 20th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Harrison Museum of African American Culture as an expression of the General Assembly's appreciation for its immeasurable service to the citizens of the Roanoke Valley and best wishes for a joyful anniversary celebration.

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