

1995 SESSION

ENROLLED

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 396

On the death of Bernardin Francis Dabney.

Agreed to by the Senate, February 9, 1995
Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 17, 1995

WHEREAS, Bernardin Francis Dabney, former chairman of the Department of Languages and Literature and former Assistant to the President of Virginia State University, died on February 2, 1995; and

WHEREAS, a native of Boston, Dr. Dabney joined the faculty of Virginia State College in 1940 and assumed the chairmanship of the Department of Languages and Literature in the mid-1950s; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Dabney, who also served briefly as Acting Dean of the University in 1976, served as department chairman until his retirement in 1980; and

WHEREAS, following his retirement, Dr. Dabney continued to serve Virginia State University as Assistant to the President of the University; and

WHEREAS, long active in civil rights, Dr. Dabney was instrumental in the 1950s in the founding of the Petersburg Progressive Political Organization, a group that led voter registration drives and worked to increase political participation by black citizens; and

WHEREAS, a lifetime supporter of the arts, Dr. Dabney had served as director of the Petersburg Symphony since 1980; and

WHEREAS, a member of the St. Joseph Catholic Church, Dr. Dabney served as chairman of the Christian Formation Committee and, in 1994, became a member of the Commission on Peace and Justice of the Richmond Diocese; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Dabney leaves a substantial and lasting legacy of service to his church, his community, his university, and the Commonwealth; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly mourn the passing of Dr. Bernardin Francis Dabney, a dedicated educator and an invaluable community servant; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of Dr. Bernardin Francis Dabney as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for his memory.

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