

# 1996 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 147

Offered February 20, 1996

*Lamenting the demise of the Richmond Afro-American.*

Patrons—Lambert, Goode, Lucas, Marsh, Maxwell, Miller, Y.B., Stosch, Ticer and Whipple; Delegates:  
Cantor, Christian, Crittenden, Cunningham, Hall, Jones, D.C., Jones, J.C., McEachin, Melvin, Reid,  
Rhodes and Spruill

Consent to introduce

WHEREAS, the Richmond Afro-American, for more than a century a strong, clear voice for the  
Richmond African-American community, published its last issue on February 8, 1996; and

WHEREAS, founded in 1883 by John Mitchell, the Richmond Afro-American has been part of the  
Baltimore-based Afro-American Company since 1938; and

WHEREAS, the Richmond Afro-American was the most widely read minority publication in the  
Central Virginia area, with more than 120,000 loyal readers; and

WHEREAS, falling prey to decreasing advertising revenues and a dramatic increase in the cost of  
newsprint, the Richmond Afro-American published its last issue, Volume 115, Number 25, as a special  
issue devoted to Black History Month; and

WHEREAS, for its long and devoted service to Richmond's African-American community, for its  
century-long dedication to journalistic excellence, and for its indelible contribution to chronicling the  
history of Richmond for more than 100 years, the Richmond Afro-American leaves a brilliant legacy;  
now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly  
commend the Richmond Afro-American for its 123 years of service to Richmond and the  
Commonwealth; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the General Assembly hereby lament the loss of this vital and  
enduring part of the Richmond African-American community; and, be it

RESOLVED FINALLY, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to John J.  
Oliver, Jr., publisher and chairman of the Afro-American Company, as an expression of the General  
Assembly's admiration for the Richmond Afro-American and sadness over its demise.

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