

# 1996 SESSION

ENROLLED

## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 147

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

Agreed to by the Senate, February 22, 1996  
Agreed to by the House of Delegates, March 1, 1996

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.

ENROLLED

SJ147ER