

1996 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 39

Offered January 18, 1996

On the death of Benjamin Franklin Kersey, Jr.

Patrons—Lambert, Benedetti, Lucas, Marsh, Maxwell and Miller, Y.B.; Delegates: Christian, Crittenden, Cunningham, McEachin and Robinson

WHEREAS, Benjamin Franklin Kersey, Jr., one of the first African-American scoutmasters in Richmond and an American Red Cross board member for many years, died on January 8, 1996; and

WHEREAS, while a student at Virginia Union University in 1929, Frank Kersey began his career in the Boy Scouts by serving as scoutmaster to the first African-American scout troop in Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Frank Kersey, who remained active with the Boy Scouts until the 1950s, produced the first African-American Eagle Scout in the South, James E. Jackson, and later produced Richmond's second African-American Eagle Scout, John M. Brooks; and

WHEREAS, the winner of numerous awards and citations, Frank Kersey was a field executive with the Boy Scouts from 1935 until 1948 and was honored with the Silver Beaver Award, scouting's highest adult award; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his trailblazing activities in the Boy Scouts, Frank Kersey devoted countless hours and tremendous energy to the American Red Cross, in which he was active in a variety of capacities for 65 years; and

WHEREAS, Frank Kersey was one of the city's first African-American Red Cross volunteers, was instrumental in bringing safety classes to the Richmond public schools, was elected to the American Red Cross Senior Citizen Hall of Fame, and received the Clara Barton Award, the highest recognition for Red Cross volunteers; and

WHEREAS, through his many years of work with the Boy Scouts, with the American Red Cross, and with numerous other civic organizations, Frank Kersey amply demonstrated his devotion to the welfare of his neighbors, his city, and the Commonwealth; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly mourn the passing of a uniquely dedicated and effective Virginian, Benjamin Franklin Kersey, Jr.; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of Benjamin Franklin Kersey, Jr., as an expression of the General Assembly's abiding respect for his life of service to his community.

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