

1996 SESSION

ENROLLED

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 40

On the death of D. Jerlene Harding.

Agreed to by the Senate, January 25, 1996
Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 2, 1996

WHEREAS, D. Jerlene Harding, a music teacher in the Portsmouth City Schools for 34 years and the founder of the Tidewater Area Musicians Youth Orchestra, died on December 20, 1995; and

WHEREAS, a native of Portsmouth, Jerlene Harding retired from teaching in 1991, following 34 years of distinguished and creative service to the youth of the city; and

WHEREAS, Jerlene Harding did not retire from music, however, continuing to direct the internationally famous Tidewater Area Musicians (TAM) Youth Orchestra she founded 20 years ago; and

WHEREAS, relying on her own prodigious talents as a music teacher and on her new-found ability as a fund raiser, Jerlene Harding founded TAM to keep her students interested in music after graduation from the public schools; and

WHEREAS, the orchestra comprises musicians ranging from high school freshmen to college students, who play a full repertoire of classical, jazz, popular, gospel, and soul music; and

WHEREAS, TAM, drawing from the neighborhoods of Norfolk, Portsmouth, and Chesapeake, exposes young people both to music and to the world, traveling throughout the country and even overseas; and

WHEREAS, motivated by the energy and example of Jerlene Harding, many TAM alumni have become professional musicians, while others have become music teachers; and

WHEREAS, a woman dedicated to the youth of her community, Jerlene Harding leaves a lasting legacy, evident in the scores of young musicians she motivated, taught, and inspired; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly note with sadness the passing of D. Jerlene Harding, a singularly dedicated and effective teacher of music; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of D. Jerlene Harding as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for her memory.

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