

# 1996 SESSION

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## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 47

Offered January 19, 1996

*On the death of Dr. John C. Tyson.*

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

WHEREAS, Dr. John C. Tyson, a former Virginia State Librarian and a member of Arthur Ashe's Virginia Heroes, died on November 7, 1995; and

WHEREAS, a native of Richlands, John Tyson earned his bachelor's degree from Concord College in West Virginia, masters' degrees from the University of Illinois and West Virginia University, and his doctorate in library administration from Simmons College in Boston; and

WHEREAS, following service with libraries in Illinois, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Massachusetts, Dr. Tyson arrived in Virginia during the 1980s as head librarian at the University of Richmond; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, Dr. Tyson was appointed Virginia State Librarian by Governor Douglas Wilder, the first African-American to hold the position in Virginia and only the second in the nation to head a state library system; and

WHEREAS, a strong advocate of greater and easier public access to state library resources, Dr. Tyson spearheaded efforts to provide a computer link between the new Library of Virginia and all other libraries in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, his trailblazing accomplishments and strong record of achievement made Dr. Tyson an ideal member of Virginia Heroes, a mentoring program originated by the late Arthur Ashe; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly note with sadness the untimely passing of a singularly talented and accomplished Virginian, Dr. John C. Tyson; and, be it

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

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