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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 395

Offered February 10, 2017

Commending the Richmond Free Press.

Patrons—McClellan, Dance and Sturtevant; Delegates: Bagby, Bourne, Carr, McQuinn and O'Bannon

WHEREAS, the *Richmond Free Press*, an independent weekly newspaper, has provided a voice for the African American community in Richmond for 25 years; and

WHEREAS, the *Richmond Free Press* was founded on February 16, 1992, by Raymond H. Boone, who served as editor and publisher until the time of his death in 2014, along with friends and colleagues who shared in his vision to create an engaging, mission-driven newspaper; and

WHEREAS, the *Richmond Free Press* was a labor of love in its early days, with the small staff adapting to meet tight deadlines on long workdays; four members of the original staff still help the newspaper bring relevant, thought-provoking information to readers each week; and

WHEREAS, committed to free expression and robust debate, the *Richmond Free Press* works to facilitate openness and accountability in local and state government and provides unique perspectives on a wide variety of complex issues; and

WHEREAS, frank and honest discussion has been a signature of the *Richmond Free Press*, which has addressed poverty, racism, economic inequality, criminal justice reform, and quality of life issues in the Richmond area, such as the conditions of roads and public schools; and

WHEREAS, though primarily serving Richmond's African American residents, the *Richmond Free Press* strives to unite people of all races, creeds, and backgrounds in a common mission to strengthen the Richmond community and the Commonwealth; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the *Richmond Free Press* on the occasion of its 25th anniversary of serving and informing the residents of Richmond; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Jean P. Boone, publisher of the *Richmond Free Press*, as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the newspaper's many contributions to journalism and the Richmond community.

INTRODUCED

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