

## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 20

*Celebrating the life of Dorcas Ruth Hardy.*

Agreed to by the Senate, January 9, 2020  
Agreed to by the House of Delegates, January 10, 2020

WHEREAS, Dorcas Ruth Hardy, tireless public servant and the first woman to lead the United States Social Security Administration, died on November 28, 2019; and

WHEREAS, born in Newark, New Jersey, Dorcas Hardy graduated from Connecticut College before earning a master's degree in business administration from Pepperdine University; and

WHEREAS, after beginning her career as a legislative assistant to a U.S. Senator from New Jersey, Clifford Case, Dorcas Hardy later returned to California and served as Assistant Secretary for Health under Governor Ronald Reagan; and

WHEREAS, following her service to the state of California, Dorcas Hardy was Associate Director of the Center for Health Services Research at the University of Southern California School of Medicine from 1974 to 1981; and

WHEREAS, Dorcas Hardy moved to the Washington, D.C., area in 1981 to serve the administration of President Ronald Reagan; she initially held the position of Assistant Secretary for Human Development Services at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and chaired the president's Task Force on Legal Equity for Women; and

WHEREAS, for her many years of dedication and professionalism, President Ronald Reagan nominated Dorcas Hardy to serve as Commissioner of the Social Security Administration in 1986, the first time the post had been held by a woman; in this role from 1986 to 1989, she managed over 76,000 staff members in 1,000 offices processing \$200 billion worth of benefits for 37 million people; and

WHEREAS, after leaving office, Dorcas Hardy remained a passionate advocate for the responsible management of the nation's entitlement program, serving on the Social Security Advisory Board for many years and co-authoring *Social Insecurity: The Crisis in America's Social Security System and How to Plan Now for Your Own Financial Survival* in 1991; and

WHEREAS, an active and engaged member of her community committed to improving the lives of young girls and women, Dorcas Hardy volunteered considerable time to the Olave Baden-Powell Society and the Girl Scouts of the USA, the latter of which bestowed upon her a lifetime membership in recognition of her efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth is indebted to Dorcas Hardy for her leadership and guidance as a state appointee to the Board of Rehabilitative Services and the University of Mary Washington Board of Visitors; and

WHEREAS, Dorcas Hardy will be dearly remembered and sorely missed by her husband, Samuel; her stepchildren, Samuel, Brad, and Greg, and their families; and numerous other family members and friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby note with great sadness the loss of Dorcas Ruth Hardy, an influential public servant who was committed to ensuring a sound retirement for all Americans; and, be it

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

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