
ENGROSSED RESOLUTION

Relating to: commending the life and public service of Jarius Anthony Josey.

Whereas, Jarius Anthony Josey was born to Anthony and Patience Josey on January 6, 1876, in Augusta, Georgia; and

Whereas, he graduated from Atlanta University in 1905; and

Whereas, he married Chestena Carmichael in 1905 and moved to Madison shortly thereafter; and

Whereas, he enrolled in the University of Wisconsin–Madison Law School class of 1910, becoming one of the first African Americans to attend the University of Wisconsin Law School; and

Whereas, in 1915, he helped to found Mount Zion Baptist Church in Madison, where he later served as chairman of its board of trustees; and

Whereas, in 1916, he helped found the *Wisconsin Weekly Blade*, where he worked as editor–in–chief for three decades, taking positions on almost every issue of importance to African Americans in Wisconsin; and

Whereas, he eventually moved to Milwaukee, and there established the *Blade* as Wisconsin’s first successful African American newspaper; and

Whereas, in the pages of the *Blade*, he courageously advocated against discrimination in juries, the military, and government employment; and

Whereas, his editorials were instrumental in opening up the political process and exposing political discrimination around Wisconsin and America; and

Whereas, after his career with the *Blade*, he continued to serve his community by opening a real estate business dedicated to helping minority home buyers; and

Whereas, as a dedicated servant of Milwaukee, he helped to organize and further Milwaukee’s Northside YMCA; and

Whereas, he earned such acclaim as a champion for equal rights and opportunity that he was asked to sit on dozens of Milwaukee committees regarding interracial affairs and was consulted by sitting United States Presidents; and

Whereas, he died on July 7, 1957, after a lifetime devoted to improving the status of Wisconsin’s African American population; and

Whereas, the adoption of this senate resolution is supported not only by the senate, but also by members of the assembly, including specifically Representatives Sheridan, Schneider, Young, Grigsby, Sinicki, Mason, Fields, Benedict, Turner, and Hintz; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the senate, That the members of the Wisconsin senate do hereby honor and celebrate the groundbreaking life and accomplishments of Jarius Anthony Josey.

State Capitol
Madison, Wisconsin

Senator Fred A. Risser
President of the Senate

Date

Robert J. Marchant
Senate Chief Clerk