## **2007 SENATE RESOLUTION 14**

February 27, 2008 – Introduced by Senators Taylor and Coggs. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

| 1  | <b>Relating to:</b> commending the life and public service of Jarius Anthony Josey. |
|----|---|
| 2  | Whereas, Jarius Anthony Josey was born to Anthony and Patience Josey on             |
| 3  | January 6, 1876, in Augusta, Georgia; and   |
| 4  | Whereas, he graduated from Atlanta University in 1905; and                          |
| 5  | Whereas, he married Chestena Carmichael in 1905 and moved to Madison                |
| 6  | shortly thereafter; and   |
| 7  | Whereas, he enrolled in the University of Wisconsin-Madison Law School class        |
| 8  | of 1910, becoming one of the first African Americans to attend the University of    |
| 9  | Wisconsin Law School; and   |
| 10 | Whereas, in 1915, he helped to found Mount Zion Baptist Church in Madison,          |
| 11 | where he later served as chairman of its board of trustees; and                     |
| 12 | Whereas, in 1916, he helped found the Wisconsin Weekly Blade, where he              |
| 13 | worked as editor-in-chief for three decades, taking positions on almost every issue |
| 14 | of importance to African Americans in Wisconsin; and                                |

| 1  | Whereas, he eventually moved to Milwaukee, and there established the Blade          |
|----|---|
| 2  | as Wisconsin's first successful African American newspaper; and                     |
| 3  | Whereas, in the pages of the Blade, he courageously advocated against               |
| 4  | discrimination in juries, the military, and government employment; and              |
| 5  | Whereas, his editorials were instrumental in opening up the political process       |
| 6  | and exposing political discrimination around Wisconsin and America; and             |
| 7  | Whereas, after his career with the Blade, he continued to serve his community       |
| 8  | by opening a real estate business dedicated to helping minority home buyers; and    |
| 9  | Whereas, as a dedicated servant of Milwaukee, he helped to organize and             |
| 10 | further Milwaukee's Northside YMCA; and   |
| 11 | Whereas, he earned such acclaim as a champion for equal rights and                  |
| 12 | opportunity that he was asked to sit on dozens of Milwaukee committees regarding    |
| 13 | interracial affairs and was consulted by sitting United States Presidents; and      |
| 14 | Whereas, he died on July 7, 1957, after a lifetime devoted to improving the         |
| 15 | status of Wisconsin's African American population; and                              |
| 16 | Whereas, the adoption of this senate resolution is supported not only by the        |
| 17 | senate, but also by members of the assembly, including specifically Representatives |
| 18 | Sheridan, Schneider, Young, Grigsby, Sinicki, Mason, Fields, Benedict, Turner, and  |
| 19 | Hintz; now, therefore, be it  |
| 20 | <b>Resolved by the senate, That</b> the members of the Wisconsin senate do hereby   |
| 21 | honor and celebrate the groundbreaking life and accomplishments of Jarius Anthony   |
| 22 | Josey.  |
| 23 | (END)   |