

## 2022 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 251

Offered February 21, 2022

*Celebrating the life of Tony Darnell Cosby.*

Patron—McQuinn

WHEREAS, Tony Darnell Cosby of Richmond, a playwright who honored the legacy of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., as a historical reenactor, died on August 23, 2021; and

WHEREAS, a native of Richmond, Tony Cosby studied acting at Bowie State University in Maryland; and

WHEREAS, in 1983, Tony Cosby was invited to read the "I Have a Dream" speech at a local church to mark the 20th anniversary of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom; and

WHEREAS, Tony Cosby prepared by listening to tapes of Dr. King's speeches and impressed the audience with his ability to evoke the sound, cadence, and inflection of Dr. King's voice; and

WHEREAS, Tony Cosby parlayed the performance into a year-round occupation, making appearances at churches, theaters, and other venues; he was particularly active during Black History Month and was a key speaker for the annual Community Learning Week in Richmond; and

WHEREAS, Tony Cosby's sincerity and commitment to his craft helped new generations of Richmond residents engage with Dr. King's message in a unique and personal way; and

WHEREAS, Tony Cosby will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by his daughter, Kristin, and her family; his mother, Shirley; and numerous other family members and friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby note with great sadness the loss of Tony Darnell Cosby; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of Tony Darnell Cosby as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for his memory.

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