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SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 696

Offered October 27, 2025

Celebrating the life of D'Angelo.

Patrons—Bagby and Aird

WHEREAS, D'Angelo, a talented singer-songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, and record producer who was considered a pioneer of the neo soul genre of music that emerged in the late 1990s and early 2000s, died on October 14, 2025; and

WHEREAS, born Michael Eugene Archer, D'Angelo grew up in Richmond and began playing piano at the age of three; as a teenager, he formed a vocal trio, Three of a Kind, with his cousins, then formed a duo with his brother, Luther, with whom he won an amateur night competition at the Apollo Theater in Harlem; and

WHEREAS, D'Angelo began experimenting with recording his own music and relocated to New York City to pursue a music career; he performed with the hip-hop group I.D.U. before receiving a record contract from EMI; and

WHEREAS, D'Angelo's first national success came as a songwriter and producer on "U Will Know," which was recorded by the supergroup Black Men United in 1994; the song peaked at number 28 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart, and D'Angelo was featured in the music video as the group's choir director; and

WHEREAS, in 1995, D'Angelo released his debut solo album, *Brown Sugar*, a labor of love on which he wrote and arranged the songs, provided vocals, performed much of the album's musical accompaniment, and served as producer; the album was credited with launching neo soul, a contemporary genre that blended classic soul sounds with rhythm and blues, hip-hop, jazz, and other types of music; and

WHEREAS, D'Angelo's second album, *Voodoo*, is considered one of the finest examples of neo soul and an overall masterpiece, debuting at number one in 2000; the track "Untitled (How Does It Feel)" was a major hit for its silky groove and sultry music video and was subsequently listed as the second greatest rhythm and blues song of the 21st century by *Rolling Stone* magazine; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, D'Angelo released his third studio album, *Black Messiah*, which met with widespread critical acclaim for its forays into rock and roll and psychedelic sounds; and

WHEREAS, among many accolades over the course of his career, D'Angelo won GRAMMY awards for the albums *Voodoo* and *Black Messiah* and the songs "Untitled (How Does It Feel)" and "Really Love"; and

WHEREAS, D'Angelo will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by his three children and numerous other family members and friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of Virginia hereby note with great sadness the loss of D'Angelo, a musical luminary who inspired generations of fans and fellow recording artists; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of D'Angelo as an expression of the Senate of Virginia's respect for his memory.

INTRODUCED

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