



**PRELIMINARY DRAFT - NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION**  
**2025 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION**

1     **Relating to:** honoring and commending Dr. Jerrel W. Jones.

2           Whereas, Dr. Jerrel W. Jones served as more than a leader—he was the heart  
3     and soul of Courier Communications, building the company from the ground up  
4     over the course of 61 years with love, vision, and unwavering commitment to the  
5     community; and

6           Whereas, Dr. Jones led with compassion, integrity, and a deep belief in  
7     treating everyone like family, setting a lasting example of servant leadership; and

8           Whereas, Dr. Jones’s influence reached far beyond the boardroom, as his  
9     leadership was not only foundational to Courier Communications but  
10    transformational in the lives of many individuals across Wisconsin and the nation;  
11    and

12          Whereas, Dr. Jones was a true visionary whose impact as a pioneer in the  
13    realms of media, music, and politics elevated the voices and stories of the African-

1 American community, especially through his stewardship of the Milwaukee Courier  
2 and WNOV radio; and

3 Whereas, Dr. Jones remained steadfast in his dedication to truth, equity, and  
4 service, leaving behind a legacy that will continue to inspire generations of leaders,  
5 journalists, and community builders; and

6 Whereas, as a civil rights warrior, mentor, and media trailblazer, Dr. Jones's  
7 six decades of activism advanced the cause of justice for Black Americans and  
8 helped shape the political and cultural landscape of Wisconsin; and

9 Whereas, Dr. Jones's commitment to training and empowering multimedia  
10 professionals contributed significantly to the development of Black voices in  
11 journalism and his work earned national recognition, including the prestigious  
12 Russwurm Award from the National Newspaper Association; and

13 Whereas, inspired by his mother, Dr. Mary Ellen Strong, Dr. Jones carried  
14 forward the tradition of Black-owned media and maintained that Black stories  
15 must be told by Black voices, famously declaring, "We are the news. We are  
16 everywhere, in everything. We need to be the ones to tell our stories"; and

17 Whereas, Dr. Jones championed truth and trust in media, using his platform  
18 to support political campaigns and civic causes, and embodied the motto of the  
19 Milwaukee Courier: "The newspaper you can trust"; and

20 Whereas, even as media evolved with technology, Dr. Jones remained  
21 committed to core journalistic values, expressing faith in the next generation of  
22 young, passionate Black journalists and urging them not to be deterred: "We make  
23 the world go round. Don't let them tell you you don't"; now, therefore, be it

24 ***Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That*** the Wisconsin

1 Legislature honors and commends Dr. Jerrel W. Jones for his extraordinary life,  
2 leadership, and contributions and recognizes him as a pillar of the community, a  
3 trailblazer in media, and a voice of truth whose impact will resonate for  
4 generations.

5 (END)