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HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 969

Offered October 28, 2025

Commending Andrew Billingsley.

Patron—Ward

WHEREAS, Andrew Billingsley, an esteemed sociologist, author, and college administrator and beloved member of the Hampton community, celebrates his 100th birthday in March; and

WHEREAS, a native of Marion, Alabama, Andrew Billingsley served his country with honor and distinction for two years during World War II; and

WHEREAS, Andrew Billingsley attended what is today Hampton University, where he was president of the student council and a member of the school band and debate team; and

WHEREAS, Andrew Billingsley participated in an exchange program with Grinnell College and ultimately earned a bachelor's degree in political science from that institution; and

WHEREAS, Andrew Billingsley subsequently completed a master's degree in social services at Boston University in 1956, a master's degree in sociology at the University of Michigan in 1960, and a doctoral degree in social policy and research at Brandeis University in 1964; and

WHEREAS, Andrew Billingsley held several prominent academic positions throughout his career, including assistant chancellor of academic affairs at the University of California, Berkeley, and vice president of academic affairs at Howard University; and

WHEREAS, Andrew Billingsley proudly served as the eighth president of Morgan State University before retiring from education administration in 1985; and

WHEREAS, Andrew Billingsley continued to teach following his first retirement, both as professor and chair of family studies at the University of Maryland and as a distinguished professor of sociology and African American studies and a senior scholar-in-residence at the University of South Carolina's Institute for Families in Society, before he fully retired in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Andrew Billingsley authored and coauthored several notable books and publications over the years, including *Black Families in White America* (1968), *Climbing Jacob's Ladder: The Enduring Legacies of African-American Families* (1992), and *Yearning to Breathe Free: Robert Smalls of South Carolina and his Families* (2007); and

WHEREAS, Andrew Billingsley received numerous awards and honors in recognition of his professional achievements, including the DuBois-Johnson-Frazier Award from the American Sociological Association and the Lifetime Achievement Award from Hampton University, as well as honorary degrees from Mercy College, Grinnell College, and the University of South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Andrew Billingsley gave generously of his time on various boards, including the National Urban League in New York, the Male Youth Project at the Shiloh Family Life Center in Washington, D.C., and the Brookland Foundation in Columbia, South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Andrew Billingsley contributed to the success of countless people over his long and distinguished career, earning the respect and admiration of all Virginians; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That Andrew Billingsley hereby be commended on the occasion of his 100th birthday; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Andrew Billingsley as an expression of the House of Delegates' high regard for his legacy of leadership and service.

INTRODUCED

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