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HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 976

Offered October 28, 2025

Celebrating the life of Richard A. Singletary, Ph.D.

Patron—Scott, D.

WHEREAS, Richard A. Singletary, Ph.D., an accomplished scholar, educator, and art collector and beloved member of the Portsmouth community, who was known for his rich legacy of scholarship, service, and cultural contributions, died on June 27, 2025; and

WHEREAS, Richard Singletary earned a bachelor's degree in education with concentrations in English, art, and music; a master's degree in humanities with a focus in art and music history, including African and European studies; a master's degree in piano performance; and two doctor of philosophy degrees; and

WHEREAS, Richard Singletary demonstrated an impressive commitment to learning new languages, including by studying French at Middlebury College and French, Spanish, Italian, German, Russian, Chinese, and Japanese at Old Dominion University, in addition to his studies at the University of Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth University, and Norfolk State University; and

WHEREAS, Richard Singletary's passion for education and service was evident in his distinguished teaching career as an adjunct associate professor at Tidewater Community College and Norfolk State University, as well as with Portsmouth and Norfolk City Public Schools, where he taught elementary education, English as a Second Language, and string music; he also taught abroad in Liberia as a dedicated United States Peace Corps volunteer; and

WHEREAS, Richard Singletary was the founder and curator of the Singletary Gallery and African Art Museum, located in his home in Portsmouth, which featured traditional African artworks, including collections from Charles K. Sibley and works by various artists from around the world; and

WHEREAS, Richard Singletary served as a curator, lecturer, and presenter for numerous exhibits and events and was honored many times for his outstanding contributions to the arts, education, and his community; and

WHEREAS, Richard Singletary was a lifetime member of the NAACP, attaining Silver, Gold, and Diamond tier distinctions in 2008, 2010, and 2011, respectively, and he was a devout member of St. Paul's Catholic Church in Portsmouth; and

WHEREAS, Richard Singletary lived as a true Renaissance man, embodying quiet strength, dignity, and intellectual breadth and leaving a legacy of cultural preservation, academic excellence, and selfless service; and

WHEREAS, preceded in death by his sister, Marie, Richard Singletary will be fondly remembered and dearly missed by his brother, Tracy, and by numerous other family members and friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Delegates hereby note with great sadness the loss of Richard A. Singletary, Ph.D., a distinguished scholar, educator, and art collector whose invaluable contributions to the arts, education, and humanity inspired all who knew him; 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 Richard A. Singletary, Ph.D., as an expression of the House of Delegates' respect for his memory.

INTRODUCED

HR976