

# 2024 SPECIAL SESSION I

INTRODUCED

24200039D

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 647

Offered May 13, 2024

Prefiled May 13, 2024

4 *Commending William J. Martin.*

5 Patrons—Carr, Cousins, Jones, McQuinn, Sickles, Ware and Willett

6 WHEREAS, for 30 years, William J. Martin, museum director at The Valentine in Richmond, has  
7 guided the institution through many evolutions to its current state as an invaluable community resource  
8 dedicated to collecting, preserving, and interpreting the diverse stories of the Richmond region; and

9 WHEREAS, over his tenure, William "Bill" J. Martin has worked tirelessly to expand and evolve the  
10 museum's exhibitions, collections, and programs to reflect the changing needs of the community; and

11 WHEREAS, Bill Martin led the reimagining of the Edward V. Valentine Sculpture Studio, which,  
12 after four years of community engagement and feedback beginning in 2020, now houses a  
13 groundbreaking exhibition that explores the Lost Cause mythology and the artistic works of Edward  
14 Valentine, the museum's first president; and

15 WHEREAS, most recently, Bill Martin oversaw a large expansion and renovation at The Valentine  
16 that includes new storage spaces to allow for the proper preservation of and increased access to  
17 collection materials for generations to come; and

18 WHEREAS, Bill Martin continues to have a deep impact on the community, serving on committees  
19 and as a board member for a number of Richmond organizations; and

20 WHEREAS, Bill Martin regularly leads tours of the city, both informally and as part of Richmond  
21 Region Tourism's I Am Tourism ambassador program, sharing the history of Richmond and telling  
22 stories of lesser-known neighborhoods and individuals; and

23 WHEREAS, Bill Martin's encyclopedic knowledge of the Richmond region's history and his passion  
24 for sharing that knowledge continues to inspire and engage longtime residents, newcomers, and visitors  
25 alike; and

26 WHEREAS, Bill Martin's dedication to collaboration and to building new partnerships with other  
27 community and cultural organizations has continued to enhance not only The Valentine but also the rest  
28 of the Richmond region by welcoming diverse perspectives in every conversation; and

29 WHEREAS, as a visionary leader, Bill Martin continues to seek truth and does not shy away from  
30 asking difficult questions about Richmond's history, empowering others to use the past to inform the  
31 present and to shape the future; and

32 WHEREAS, Bill Martin's efforts to keep The Valentine relevant, to tell Richmond stories as they  
33 happen, and to encourage community conversations in support of The Valentine's vision have led the  
34 organization to be recognized as the premier source for experiencing Richmond's history; now, therefore,  
35 be it

36 RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That William J. Martin hereby be commended on the  
37 occasion of his 30th anniversary as museum director at The Valentine; and, be it

38 RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution  
39 for presentation to William J. Martin as an expression of the House of Delegates' admiration for his  
40 contributions to the Richmond community and the Commonwealth.

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