

# 2024 SPECIAL SESSION I

INTRODUCED

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## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 667

Offered May 13, 2024

Prefiled May 13, 2024

4 *Celebrating the life of Dr. Golden Bethune-Hill.*

5 Patrons—Price, Anthony, Askew, Bennett-Parker, Bulova, Callsen, Clark, Cohen, Cole, Convirs-Fowler, Feggans, Hayes, Helmer, Henson, Hernandez, Hope, Jones, Keys-Gamarra, Krizek, LeVere Bolling, Maldonado, McQuinn, Mundon King, Rasoul, Reaser, Reid, Sewell, Shin, Sickles, Simon, Simonds, Sullivan, Thomas, Torian, Tran, Ward and Willett

6 WHEREAS, Dr. Golden Bethune-Hill, an esteemed health care executive, devoted and accomplished  
7 advocate for health equity and social justice, and beloved member of the Hampton Roads community,  
8 died on April 29, 2024; and

9 WHEREAS, after graduating from the historic George W. Carver High School in Newport News, Dr.  
10 Golden Bethune-Hill furthered her education by earning a bachelor's degree in nursing from North  
11 Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University and a master's degree in nursing administration  
12 from Virginia Commonwealth University and by completing a nurse executives fellowship program at  
13 the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania; and

14 WHEREAS, Dr. Golden Bethune-Hill began her distinguished career in health care as a staff nurse at  
15 Montefiore Medical Center in New York and thereafter became the first African American to serve as  
16 director of nursing at Riverside Regional Medical Center in Newport News; and

17 WHEREAS, following a number of leadership roles in New Jersey and Lynchburg, Dr. Golden  
18 Bethune-Hill ultimately returned to Newport News in 2005 as the first Black executive vice president of  
19 the Riverside Health System and chief executive of Riverside Regional Medical Center, where she  
20 stayed until her retirement in 2010; and

21 WHEREAS, recognizing the need to improve health care for underserved individuals and families in  
22 the Hampton Roads area, Dr. Golden Bethune-Hill co-founded the Community Free Clinic of Newport  
23 News in 2010, which was renamed the Charlie W. and Golden Bethune Hill Community Health Clinic  
24 in 2022 in her honor; and

25 WHEREAS, a tireless advocate for social justice and fair access to voting, Dr. Golden Bethune-Hill  
26 was the lead plaintiff in *Bethune-Hill v. the Virginia State Board of Elections*, cementing her place in  
27 the history of the civil rights movement; and

28 WHEREAS, Dr. Golden Bethune-Hill made an outsized impact in her community over the years  
29 through her leadership positions with several prominent social organizations, including the Delta Sigma  
30 Theta Sorority, Inc., and The Links, Inc.; and

31 WHEREAS, Dr. Golden Bethune-Hill was the recipient of many accolades in recognition of her  
32 leadership and service, including honors from the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities, the United  
33 Negro College Fund, and Providence Bible College and Theological Seminary, which granted her an  
34 honorary doctorate in 2022; and

35 WHEREAS, guided throughout her life by her faith, Dr. Golden Bethune-Hill enjoyed worship and  
36 fellowship with her community at Carver Memorial Presbyterian Church in Newport News, where she  
37 served as both a deacon and elder; and

38 WHEREAS, preceded in death by her first husband, Vernon Bethune, Dr. Golden Bethune-Hill will  
39 be fondly remembered and dearly missed by her loving husband, Charlie W. Hill; her daughters,  
40 Rahcyne, Caroline, Charlene, and Verma, and their families; and numerous other family members and  
41 friends; now, therefore, be it

42 WHEREAS, RESOLVED, That the House of Delegates hereby note with great sadness the loss of Dr. Golden  
43 Bethune-Hill, a pillar of the Hampton Roads community whose legacy of compassionate service will  
44 inspire others for generations to come; and, be it

45 WHEREAS, RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution  
46 for presentation to the family of Dr. Golden Bethune-Hill as an expression of the House of Delegates'  
47 respect for her lasting legacy.

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