

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 324

Celebrating the life of Raymond Celester Crittenden, Jr.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 26, 2010
Agreed to by the Senate, March 4, 2010

WHEREAS, Raymond Celester Crittenden, Jr., a well-known and beloved educator, died on January 4, 2010; and

WHEREAS, the son of the late Raymond C. Crittenden, Sr., and Rosa Cary Crittenden, Raymond Crittenden was born on December 7, 1926, in Richmond; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Armstrong High School, Raymond Crittenden received a bachelor's degree from Virginia State College and a master's degree from Indiana University; he completed postgraduate work at Hampton University and The College of William & Mary; and

WHEREAS, Raymond Crittenden proudly served his country in the military and military reserves from 1945 to 1950; and

WHEREAS, a stellar athlete, Raymond Crittenden played varsity football and basketball in high school and was voted Best Male Athlete in 1944; in college, he started in every football and basketball game; lettered in football, basketball, and track; was an All-CIAA Conference football and basketball player; and held a 10-year record for most points scored in a basketball game; and

WHEREAS, Raymond Crittenden's exemplary professional career as an educator, coach, and school administrator with the Newport News Public School System spanned 50 years; and

WHEREAS, Raymond Crittenden served as a coach, mentor, and role model to students at Huntington High School, 1954 - 1969; an administrator at Denbigh and Warwick High Schools, 1969 - 1988; and Night Administrator for Continuing Education until 2004; and

WHEREAS, Raymond Crittenden worked diligently to inspire and mentor his students and athletes and took great pride in their accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, Raymond Crittenden was a member of the Virginia State University Alumni Association, Indiana University Alumni Association, and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and a former member of the Dochiki Civic and Social Club; and

WHEREAS, Raymond Crittenden received many awards and accolades for his accomplishments, including 2004 induction into the Hampton Roads African American Sports Hall of Fame; 1990 induction into the Virginia State University Sports Hall of Fame; 1988 Secondary School Administrator of the Year; 1980 Newport News Mayor's Youth Commission Award; 1980 STRIVE, Inc., Youth Service Award; 1967 Virginia Interscholastic Association District Basketball Coach of the Year; and 1961 Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Man of the Year; and

WHEREAS, a man of many interests, Raymond Crittenden also enjoyed traveling and his journeys took him throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Asia; and

WHEREAS, a devoted family man, Raymond Crittenden is survived by his loving wife of 65 years, former member of the House of Delegates Flora Davis Crittenden, whom he supported and encouraged in all her endeavors on behalf of the citizens of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, Raymond Crittenden will be greatly missed by his wife, Flora; their three children, Raymond, Thursa, and Alonzo and their families; and his numerous friends and admirers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby note with great sadness the loss of a beloved educator and outstanding Virginian, Raymond Celester Crittenden, Jr.; 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 Raymond Celester Crittenden, Jr., as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for his memory.

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