

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 91

Celebrating the life of Dr. William Cleveland Boshier, Jr.

Agreed to by the Senate, February 12, 2015

WHEREAS, Dr. William Cleveland Boshier, Jr., distinguished architect of public education in Virginia and respected former Superintendent of Public Instruction, was born on January 21, 1946, in Richmond and passed into eternal life on December 1, 2014; and

WHEREAS, Dr. William Cleveland Boshier, Jr., was reared by parents who loved him and instilled in him Christian values, a love of learning, and a strong work ethic; he graduated from Lee-Davis High School, received a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Richmond, a master's degree in counselor education from Virginia Commonwealth University, and a doctorate in educational administration from the University of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, as Superintendent of Public Instruction, Dr. William Cleveland Boshier, Jr., led the Virginia Board of Education's implementation of the controversial Standards of Learning that were designed to strengthen student learning and promote educational accountability; and

WHEREAS, Dr. William Cleveland Boshier, Jr., dedicated his professional life to the education of young people, coming up through the ranks as an English teacher and supervisor in the Henrico County Public Schools; in 1981, he was elevated to Henrico County superintendent of schools; and

WHEREAS, after leaving his position as Henrico County superintendent of schools, Dr. William Cleveland Boshier, Jr., served as State Superintendent of Public Instruction from 1994 to 1996; and

WHEREAS, he served from 1996 to 2000 as Chesterfield County superintendent of schools, and during his tenure, Dr. William Cleveland Boshier, Jr., led the effort to increase the number of fully accredited county schools under the Standards of Learning program; and

WHEREAS, after leaving his position as Chesterfield County superintendent of schools in 2000, Dr. William Cleveland Boshier, Jr., served as executive director of the Commonwealth Educational Policy Institute and distinguished professor of public policy and education at Virginia Commonwealth University, where he served as dean of the School of Education from 2002 to 2005 and created the Student Services Center to consolidate admissions, advising, and clinical placements; and

WHEREAS, a teacher, principal, state director, division superintendent of two of Virginia's largest school systems exceeding more than 35,000 students, and the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Dr. William Cleveland Boshier, Jr., had a profound impact on public education in the Commonwealth through his many years of service as a mentor to hundreds of students and colleagues, as the NBC12 Educational Specialist, and as a member of several professional and community organizations, among them the University of Richmond Board of Trustees, board of directors of the Education Commission of the States, the Appalachian Education Laboratory, the Schoolnet, Inc., board of advisors, and director of River City Bank in Mechanicsville and Great Aspirations Scholarship Program (GRASP); and

WHEREAS, William Boshier is the only Virginia division superintendent who was named twice as the Superintendent of the Year and was voted the Arts Administrator of the Year by the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.; he served as consultant to more than 35 states and foreign countries on educational law, finance, policy analysis, standards development, school evaluations, and human relations; and he was a prolific writer, authoring many school law and educational leadership articles and books; and

WHEREAS, a devout Christian man whose faith in God was foremost in his life and informed his decisions, Dr. William Cleveland Boshier, Jr., was a Bible School teacher and an elder at Fairmount Christian Church for many years; when teaching, he possessed the ability to make the most complicated Bible passages easy to understand for persons at all levels of faith; and he enjoyed singing in "Just Us," a five-man group, throughout Central Virginia; and

WHEREAS, always smiling and resplendent in his signature bow tie, Dr. William Cleveland Boshier, Jr., was affectionately known as "Pop" to his granddaughters and "Bill" to others; he was a devoted son, husband, brother, father, grandfather, and servant of God; with respect for and in honor of his extraordinary service to the Commonwealth, the flag of the Commonwealth of Virginia was flown at half-staff on the day of his homegoing service on all local, state, and federal buildings and grounds in the Counties of Chesterfield, Hanover, and Henrico and the City of Richmond, and over the James Monroe Building in Richmond, where he served as Superintendent of Public Instruction; and

WHEREAS, Dr. William Cleveland Boshier, Jr.'s pastor noted that his life ended as he had lived and prepared for it: "He taught Sunday School on Sunday morning, then went to bed on Sunday night and woke up in heaven"; and

WHEREAS, Dr. William Cleveland Boshier, Jr., leaves a legacy of educational excellence, and the

memory of his extraordinary kindness, warm and genuine smile, compassion, and devotion to his God, and he will be cherished by all who loved and knew him; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of Virginia hereby note with great sadness the loss of Dr. William Cleveland Bosher, Jr.; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of Dr. William Cleveland Bosher, Jr., as an expression of the Senate of Virginia's respect for his memory and appreciation of his outstanding contributions to public education in the Commonwealth.