

**RESOLUTION TO NAME THE RESIDENCE HALL LOCATED AT
240 KENT STREET FOR JAMES LESLIE WHITEHURST, JR. '63**

WHEREAS, James Leslie Whitehurst, Jr. was a member of the early cohort of the first African-American engineering students to enroll at Virginia Tech; and

WHEREAS, James Whitehurst received his bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering in 1963, and his juris doctorate from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1975; and

WHEREAS, James Whitehurst was a fighter pilot in the Vietnam War, major in the Air Force Reserve in Virginia, member of the Air National Guard, and attorney in private practice, demonstrating the value of a Virginia Tech education by serving his country and his community through the personification of the university's motto, *Ut Prosim*, that I may serve; and

WHEREAS, a forceful voice for effective change, James Whitehurst had a history of "firsts": He compelled the university to permit him to be the first African-American student to live in a residence hall in 1961, and attesting to his life of service and professional accomplishments, he was appointed by the Governor of Virginia as the first African-American to serve on the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors from 1970 to 1974; and

WHEREAS, it would be a most appropriate and fitting tribute to name the residence hall built in 1962 and located at 240 Kent Street for James L. Whitehurst, Jr., a pioneering student committed to a life of serving others who blazed a trail for generations of students of color coming after him to live and learn in a space that was initially denied him;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that in acknowledgement of the personal journey and contributions of time, service, and influence of James Leslie Whitehurst, Jr., Class of 1963, on the integration of Virginia Tech and his legacy of firsts at the institution, the residence hall built in 1962 and located at 240 Kent Street will henceforth be known as Whitehurst Hall.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the above resolution naming the residence hall built in 1962 and located at 240 Kent Street as Whitehurst Hall for James Leslie Whitehurst, Jr. '63, be approved.

August 13, 2020

