

**RESOLUTION HONORING 2023 UT PROSIM MEDAL RECIPIENT
FRANKLIN M. BEAMER '69**

WHEREAS, Virginia Tech is very proud to recognize among its most esteemed alumni Franklin M. Beamer, a member of the legendary class of 1969 who received his bachelor of science degree from the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences and has been a loyal and enthusiastic supporter of the university; and

WHEREAS, Frank Beamer played Virginia Tech football as a cornerback from 1966 to 1968 and graduated with Omicron Delta Kappa distinction, going on to graduate school while simultaneously beginning his foray into coaching, thereby establishing the trajectory for his professional career and his life; and

WHEREAS, Frank Beamer became the head football coach for Virginia Tech in 1987, enjoying a long and prestigious career until his retirement in 2015, receiving countless awards and honors throughout his storied career and remaining one of the most recognizable figures in university history with an extraordinary leadership ability and humble demeanor that has endeared him to alumni, fans, and friends alike by virtue of his ability to bring people together; and

WHEREAS, Coach Frank Beamer has made an indelible imprint on the university's football program and has been credited with elevating the institution's comprehensive athletic portfolio and visibility on a global scale, evidenced by the term "Beamer Ball" that became synonymous with Virginia Tech's innovative approach on special teams as the Hokies rose to national prominence; and

WHEREAS, Frank Beamer's accomplishments as a premier collegiate-level coach with numerous championships to his credit resulted in his induction as a first-ballot selection to the College Football Hall of Fame's Class of 2018, the game's most prestigious honor, as well as being named the 2018 recipient of the Paul "Bear" Bryant Lifetime Achievement Award that celebrated his contributions to the game of football for a span of more than three decades and his longstanding commitment to education and preparing student-athletes to be leaders in their communities; and

WHEREAS, Frank Beamer's contributions to his alma mater have gone far beyond the football field; long-embracing and embodying the university's spirit of *Ut Prosim* ("That I May Serve") with grace and humility, Coach Beamer has enthusiastically supported philanthropic efforts across the region for decades. One of the causes closest to Beamer's heart as the son of a school teacher is Herma's Readers, a program named after his mother that provides books and other resources in an effort to promote literacy throughout Southwest Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the National Conference for Community and Justice honored Frank Beamer with its Humanitarian Award in 2004 for his contributions to fostering justice, equity and community in the Roanoke (Virginia) Valley; and

WHEREAS, recognized for innumerable contributions on the field, Frank Beamer likewise is known for his influence off of the field, building student-athletes who will contribute positively to society once they come off the field, and who will, in turn, make a strong impact in their own communities following his example;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that in recognition of Mr. Franklin M. Beamer's many years of leadership and notable service to the university and to his community, the Board of Visitors of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University confers upon Franklin M. Beamer its highest award, the 2023 Ut Prosim Medal.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the resolution conferring the 2023 Ut Prosim Medal to Franklin M. Beamer be approved.

March 20, 2023

**RESOLUTION HONORING 2023 UNIVERSITY DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT
AWARD RECIPIENT WILLIAM A. BECKSTOFFER '61**

WHEREAS, Mr. William Andrew “Andy” Beckstoffer is a 1961 alumnus of the College of Engineering; and

WHEREAS, Andy Beckstoffer has demonstrated the value of his Virginia Tech education, applying his skills globally as a highly respected and innovative leader who possesses outstanding foresight, wisdom, and resolve, and is hailed as one of the early and most important leaders in the evolution of the Napa Valley to a world-class grape-growing region; and

WHEREAS, Andy Beckstoffer has had a long, distinguished, and exemplary career that serves as a testament to his personal drive and skill; and

WHEREAS, Andy Beckstoffer has made significant contributions to the world at large, sharing his knowledge as founding director and the second president of the Napa Valley Grape Growers Association and forging an early, historic agreement on grape pricing that began a new era in which grape quality and land preservation were brought to the forefront of the industry, resulting in the Napa Valley Grape Growers continuing to thrive in its mission to preserve and promote Napa Valley’s world-class vineyards; and

WHEREAS, Andy Beckstoffer’s extraordinary genius and expertise have promoted the highest quality standards in grape growing and winemaking through his leadership of Beckstoffer Vineyards, which owns and farms over 3,600 acres of the highest quality grape-growing properties in three Northern California winegrowing regions, emerging as a company committed to excellence, innovation, and becoming an industry benchmark; and

WHEREAS, Andy Beckstoffer was elected into the Culinary Institute of America’s Vintners Hall of Fame in 2010, the first grower to be honored with this prestigious wine industry award; and

WHEREAS, Andy Beckstoffer has stayed connected to his alma mater, and has made a global impact through the core values of hard work, determination, and vision that have resulted in professional success and worldwide acclaim;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that with great pride and in recognition of his professional accomplishments, service, leadership, and commitment to making the world a better place in ways that bring honor to his profession and to his alma mater, the Board of Visitors of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University confers the University Distinguished Achievement Award for 2023 to William A. “Andy” Beckstoffer.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the resolution conferring the 2023 University Distinguished Achievement Award to William A. Beckstoffer be approved.

March 20, 2023

**RESOLUTION TO AWARD THE UT PROSIM SCHOLAR AWARD
TO PROFESSOR EMERITA NIKKI GIOVANNI**

WHEREAS, a profound commitment to service has been indelibly embedded into the culture of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University since the adoption of its motto, *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve), in 1896, and in order to honor those singular instances of the application of scholarship in truly extraordinary service to humanity, the Board of Visitors established the “*Ut Prosim* Scholar Award” in 2016; and

WHEREAS, a professor emerita of English and world-renowned, award-winning poet, University Distinguished Professor Nikki Giovanni is a celebrated and widely anthologized literary figure whose awards include a Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Academy of Poetry, the Rosa L. Parks Women of Courage Award, the Langston Hughes Medal, seven NAACP Image Awards, and the 2022 Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize, and she is the recipient of over thirty honorary degrees; and

WHEREAS, Professor Emerita Giovanni is the author of 11 children’s books and has published more than two dozen volumes of poetry, essays, and edited anthologies, from her first self-published volume, *Black Feeling Black Talk* in 1968, to the New York Times best seller *Bicycles: Love Poems*, to the Emmy-award-nominated *The Nikki Giovanni Poetry Collection*, and recent publications such as *Make Me Rain: Poems & Prose* and *Chasing Utopia: A Hybrid*. She created the Giovanni-Steger Poetry Prize competition, the largest annual national undergraduate poetry award in the country, awarded annually to undergraduate poets from a range of majors in a world-class ceremony; and

WHEREAS, Professor Emerita Giovanni is a Grammy nominee and a National Book Award finalist, and is universally recognized as one of the leading figures of the Black Arts Movement that arose as a response to the Civil Rights and Black Power movements. In addition to authoring several children’s books herself, she also founded the publishing company NikTom Ltd. to provide a venue for other African-American women writers; and

WHEREAS, Professor Emerita Giovanni has used her words to uplift our university in times of tragedy. In the immediate aftermath of the April 2007 shootings at Virginia Tech, Ms. Giovanni wrote a poem that encapsulated both the tragedy of that dark day and the resilience of the Hokie Nation, championing the message that our collective spirit was strong and resilient--“We will prevail. We are Virginia Tech” will forever be a part of how we honor those lost that day, and is but one example of her service the university in the spirit of *Ut Prosim*; and,

WHEREAS, Professor Emerita Giovanni has inspired and continues to inspire the Hokie community and the world with her literary gifts and spirit of service;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Visitors commends Professor Emerita Nikki Giovanni for an illustrious and inspiring career that has brought great credit to herself and visibility to the university, and confers upon Professor Emerita Giovanni the *Ut Prosim* Scholar Award with funds provided by the terms of the award in recognition of her tireless efforts and body of work that uplifts the Black experience in America; her advocacy of other Black writers, especially Black women writers; her fierce and unrelenting commitment to inclusion and equality; and the use of her impressive creative talents in service to others.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the above resolution commending Professor Emerita Nikki Giovanni for an illustrious and inspiring career that has brought great credit to herself and visibility to the university, and honoring her tireless efforts supporting and uplifting the Black experience in America, her advocacy of other Black writers, her fierce and unrelenting commitment to inclusion and equality, and her use of her impressive creative talents in service to others by conferring upon her the *Ut Prosim* Scholar Award with funds provided by the terms of the award be approved.

March 20, 2023