

**RESOLUTION ON HONORING 2017 WILLIAM H. RUFFNER MEDAL RECIPIENT
JOHN R. LAWSON, II '75**

Attachment Z

WHEREAS, Virginia Tech is very proud to recognize among its most esteemed alumni, Mr. John R. Lawson, II, a member of the class of 1975, who received his bachelor of science degree in Geophysics from Virginia Tech, and has been a loyal and enthusiastic volunteer and supporter of the university; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lawson has garnered professional prestige throughout his long and distinguished career in the construction industry, standing at the helm of W. M. Jordan Company, the largest construction company based in the Commonwealth of Virginia as President and Chief Executive Officer, valuing the influence of Virginia Tech in his life with its emphasis on the ideals of leadership, loyalty, service and *Ut Prosim – That I Might Serve*; and

WHEREAS, John Lawson has had an extensive tenure of service and continued engagement at Virginia Tech, serving two terms on the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors, including two years as Rector; serving as a Director on the Virginia Tech Foundation Board and its Advancement Committee; being an avid participant on the Myers-Lawson School of Construction Industry Advisory Board; being a member-advocate of Hokies for Higher Education; and leading an exceptional fundraising effort as co-chairman of the National Campaign Steering Committee of the Campaign for Virginia Tech: Invent the Future, the most successful campaign in the university's history to date, generating more than \$1.11 billion in gifts and commitments for Virginia Tech; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lawson was inducted into the William Preston Society in 2010 for his service to the Board of Visitors and was a recipient of the 2012 Alumni Distinguished Service Award from the Virginia Tech Alumni Association in recognition of his loyalty, love, service, and support to the university, a noteworthy distinction among our vast alumni base of more than 250,000; and

WHEREAS, John Lawson's many years of active participation in the university community have inspired his desire to create a wide variety of educational opportunities for Virginia Tech students as a namesake of the Myers-Lawson School of Construction, and through his support of the College of Architecture and Urban Studies, Intercollegiate Athletics, Student Affairs, and many other university initiatives; and

WHEREAS, John Lawson is an inspirational example of how a meaningful life is achieved not only through personal success, but also in service to others, consistently providing volunteer leadership and philanthropic support across the breadth of the university, continuing a tradition of a Lawson legacy at the university that started with his father, Robert Lawson '48, and continues with his son, Taylor Lawson '18; and

WHEREAS, the extraordinary generosity of Mr. Lawson has allowed him and his wife, Paige, to be recognized as members of the Ut Prosim Society at the President's Circle level, the university's most prestigious donor recognition society;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that in recognition of Mr. Lawson'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 John R. Lawson, II, its highest award, the 2017 William H. Ruffner Medal.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the resolution conferring the 2017 William H. Ruffner Medal to John R. Lawson, II be approved.

November 7, 2016

**RESOLUTION ON HONORING 2017 UNIVERSITY DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
RECIPIENT LETITIA A. LONG '82**

Attachment Z

WHEREAS, Ms. Letitia A. Long is a 1982 graduate of Virginia Tech with a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from the College of Engineering; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Long has demonstrated the value of her Virginia Tech education, applying her expertise globally as a highly respected and prominent figure in military and national intelligence, being hailed as one of the nation's most important leaders in this field; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Long has had a long, distinguished, and exemplary career that serves as a testament to his personal drive and skill as a leader, collaborator, and strategist; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Long has made significant contributions to the world at-large, being decorated with the Medal of Merit by the King of Norway, appointed to the rank of Chevalier in the National Order of the Legion of Honor of France, and awarded the Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland, among other numerous national and international recognitions of her efforts; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Long personifies the university motto, *Ut Prosim*, selflessly serving the world, her country, her community, and her alma mater, through an intelligence career that began as a civilian intern in the United States Navy, rising to become the first female deputy director of Naval Intelligence, the first Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence, the first Chief Information Officer at the Defense Intelligence Agency, Deputy Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, fifth Director of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, and Chairman of the Board of the Intelligence and National Security Alliance; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Long has continued to serve the university as a trusted advisor on the boards of the Virginia Tech School of Public and International Affairs and the Ted and Karyn Hume Center for National Security and Technology;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, with great pride and in recognition of her professional accomplishments, service, leadership, and commitment to making the world a better place in ways that bring honor to her profession and to her alma mater, the Board of Visitors of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University confers the University Distinguished Achievement Award for 2017 to Letitia A. Long.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the resolution conferring the 2017 University Distinguished Achievement Award to Ms. Letitia A. Long be approved.

November 7, 2016