

**RESOLUTION CONFERRING UPON IRVING LINWOOD PEDDREW, III
AN HONORARY BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING
CLASS OF 1957**

WHEREAS, Mr. Irving Peddrew III, was the first African-American student to attend Virginia Tech, and the first to attend any historically all-white, four-year public institution in the 11 former states of the Confederacy; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Peddrew began his post-secondary education in 1953 as an electrical engineering major at Virginia Polytechnic Institute (VPI), where he studied for three years before entering the workforce in California; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Peddrew worked for several years in the aerospace and fruit industries, at Newport News Shipbuilding, and at Hampton University before his retirement in 1994; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Peddrew displayed enormous courage and determination in navigating the various obstacles faced in applying for admission to Virginia Polytechnic Institute, and as the only African-American student attending VPI in 1953, continued to be confronted by many obstacles including exclusion from on-campus living and dining; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Peddrew became a catalyst and a pioneer for desegregation, and his academic success laid the groundwork for the enrollment of generations of African-American students at Virginia Tech and placed the university on a path to fulfill its true potential to become an inclusive institution for all; and,

WHEREAS, a recognized symbol of equality and inspiration for all underrepresented students that followed him, in 2003 Virginia Tech paid tribute to Mr. Peddrew's legacy by naming a residence hall Peddrew-Yates Hall;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that in tribute to his legacy of courage, determination, and resolve, the Board of Visitors of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University hereby confers upon Irving L. Peddrew, III, the Honorary Degree (GRADUM HONORS CAUSA) of Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering and honorary membership in Virginia Tech's class of 1957.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the above resolution conferring upon Irving L. Peddrew, III the Honorary Degree (GRADUM HONORS CAUSA) of Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering and honorary membership in Virginia Tech's class of 1957 be approved.

March 21, 2016