

Awards/Recognitions Ceremony Docket

For Official Presentation: Monday, February 9, 2026 Updated 2.6.2026/1325hrs./srs

Richmond City Council Officially Awards/Proclaims the following:

#	TITLE/RECIPIENT	TYPE	SUMMARY/NARRATIVE	MAIN PRESENTER
1	<p>The Honorable L. Douglas "Doug" Wilder <i>Governor, Lt. Governor, State Senator, Mayor</i></p> <p>To be received by: The Honorable L. Douglas "Doug" Wilder</p>	<p>COUNCIL-MAYOR JOINT RECOGNITION</p>	<p>To recognize, honor, and celebrate The Honorable L. Douglas "Doug" Wilder on the auspicious occasion of his 95th birthday and thank him for his enduring contributions to our City, State, and Nation.</p>	<p>Cm. Trammell</p>

The Council Formal Award/Recognition below was provided for presentation in the community:

#	TITLE/RECIPIENT	TYPE	SUMMARY/NARRATIVE	COMMUNITY EVENT
1	<p>On behalf of William J. "Bill" Martin (February 5, 1954 - December 28, 2025)</p>	<p>COUNCIL-MAYOR JOINT IN MEMORIAM AND ETERNAL REMEMBRANCE</p>	<p>To recognize honor, and celebrate William J. "Bill" Martin, whose life and legacy will forever be revered and honored by our grateful community.</p>	<p>COMMUNITY EVENT Provided for Open House event honoring Mr. Martin at The Valentine Museum, on February 7, 2026</p>



RICHMOND CITY COUNCIL & MAYOR OF RICHMOND

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA - COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA - CITY OF RICHMOND

COUNCIL-MAYOR JOINT RECOGNITION

By virtue of the authority vested in the United States of America, Commonwealth of Virginia, Virginia Code of Laws, and the Richmond City Charter, the Mayor of Richmond and Richmond City Council, the governing legislative institution of Richmond, Virginia in the United States of America, do hereby and officially recognize:

The Honorable L. Douglas "Doug" Wilder

Governor, Lt. Governor, State Senator, Mayor

Whereas, Richmond City Council, the governing legislative institution of Richmond, Virginia, and the Mayor of Richmond, in the United States of America, do hereby unite to officially recognize, honor, and celebrate The Honorable L. Douglas "Doug" Wilder on the auspicious occasion of his 95th birthday; and

Whereas, Born on January 17, 1931 in the Richmond East End 7th District, Church Hill Neighborhood, Mr. Wilder graduated from Richmond Public Schools - Armstrong High School; and

Whereas, Following his graduation from Virginia Union University, Mr. Wilder entered the United States Army where he served during the Korean War, earning the Bronze Star Medal for service in combat, and rose to the rank of sergeant; and

Whereas, Returning from military deployment, Mr. Wilder earned his law degree from Howard University Law School and began practicing law in his home city of Richmond; and

Whereas, Winning a special election in 1969 for the Virginia General Assembly - Senate of Virginia, Mr. Wilder became Senator representing a Richmond-area, and became the first person of African American descent elected to that body since Reconstruction following the U.S. Civil War; and

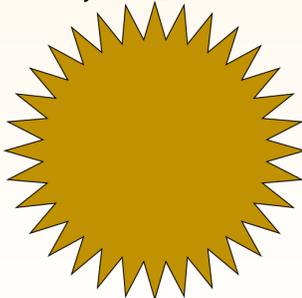
Whereas, In 1985, Mr. Wilder was elected Lieutenant Governor of Virginia, becoming the first person of African American descent to win a statewide office in the Commonwealth; and

Whereas, In 1989, Mr. Wilder was elected Governor of Virginia, becoming the first person of African American descent to be popularly elected governor in the United States; and

Whereas, In 2004, Mr. Wilder was elected Mayor of Richmond following its change to a Council-Mayor form of government, and became the first directly elected mayor of the city in 60 years; and

Whereas, Mr. Wilder's legacy as a trailblazer, educator, and dedicated public servant continues to inspire and his historic leadership has shaped the city and our Commonwealth in profound ways and left an indelible impact on generations to come; and

Now, Therefore, Richmond City Council and Mayor Danny Avula do hereby with deep respect and gratitude, recognize, honor, and celebrate The Honorable L. Douglas "Doug" Wilder on the auspicious occasion of his 95th birthday and thank him for his enduring contributions to our City, State, and Nation.



In Witness Whereof, this has hereunto been established for official presentation on this ninth day of February, two thousand twenty-six, of the Common Era, in the two hundred eighty-eighth year of the foundation of Richmond in 1737, in the two hundred fiftieth of the Commonwealth of Virginia and United States of America.

The Honorable Cynthia I. Newbille
Council President, Richmond City Council
Councilmember, Richmond East End 7th Voter District



The Honorable Danny Avula
Mayor
City of Richmond



The Honorable Reva M. Trammell
Councilmember, Richmond City Council
Richmond Southside 8th Voter District





RICHMOND CITY COUNCIL & MAYOR OF RICHMOND

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA - COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA - CITY OF RICHMOND

IN MEMORIAM AND ETERNAL REMEMBRANCE

By virtue of the authority vested in the United States of America, Commonwealth of Virginia, Virginia Code of Laws, and the Richmond City Charter: the Mayor of Richmond and Richmond City Council, the governing legislative institution of Richmond, Virginia in the United States of America, do hereby and officially recognize:

William J. "Bill" Martin

(February 5, 1954 - December 28, 2025)

Whereas, Richmond City Council, the governing legislative institution of Richmond, Virginia, and the Mayor of Richmond, in the United States of America, do hereby join together to celebrate the life and legacy of William J. "Bill" Martin, a passionate advocate, steward, champion, and caretaker of our City's culture and history; and

Whereas, Leading The Valentine Museum as its Director for more than thirty years, Mr. Martin was instrumental in embracing and sharing Richmond's rich and complex history in ways that substantially increased, highlighted, and expanded our knowledge and understanding of our uniquely shared history in robust and profound ways; and

Whereas, A true Richmond treasure, Mr. Martin helped inspire and grow the importance, respect, breadth, and depth of The Valentine Museum into one of our City's most revered and respected institutions for our residents, region, and visitors; and

Whereas, During his tenure with the Museum, Mr. Martin collaborated and partnered with people and organizations throughout the region, increased collections and programming, reimagined storytelling in inventive ways, and became one of Richmond's most respected and cherished residents; and

Whereas, Richmond City Council and the Mayor of Richmond join family, friends, colleagues, and all those who knew, loved, and admired Mr. Martin in mourning his passing and in remembering and celebrating his extraordinary leadership, life, and legacy; and

Whereas, While no words come close to being able to fully comfort on such a profound loss, Mr. Martin's light will continue to shine for many years to come, within all those he connected with and impacted over the years;

Now, Therefore, Richmond City Council and Mayor Danny Avula do hereby, In Memoriam and Eternal Remembrance, recognize honor, and celebrate William J. "Bill" Martin, whose life and legacy will forever be revered and honored by our grateful community.

In Witness Whereof, this has hereunto been established for official presentation on this seventh day of February, two thousand twenty-six, of the Common Era, in the two hundred eighty-eighth year of the foundation of Richmond in 1737, in the two hundred fiftieth of the Commonwealth of Virginia and United States of America.

The Honorable Cynthia I. Newbille
Council President, Richmond City Council
Councilmember, Richmond East End 7th Voter District



The Honorable Danny Avula
Mayor
City of Richmond



The Honorable Katherine L. Jordan
Council Vice President, Richmond City Council
Councilmember, Richmond North Central 2nd Voter District

