



Resolution of Appreciation for the Service of
Earl N. Smith III

WHEREAS, Earl N. Smith III, by his example of humility, compassion, perseverance, integrity, and achievement inspired the students, faculty and staff to pursue their aspirations and academic goals;

WHEREAS, he as a member of the Paul Cuffee School Board of Trustees, and as its Board President held high expectations for continuous improvement and student success, with an unwavering commitment to equity in education, social justice, scholarship, and the pursuit of academic freedom;

WHEREAS, he as Board President, personally recruited, mentored and supported all Trustees, and greatly contributed to the diversification, development, collegiality, and accomplishments of the School's Board and its Committees;

WHEREAS, his generosity of spirit, kindness, and mentorship extended beyond the K-12 years of our Paul Cuffee students, many of whom benefited from his stewardship during their college years and beyond;

WHEREAS, he provided extended learning experiences, access, and opportunities for students, including international travel to Cape Verde, and hosting guest speakers, including historically important figures;

WHEREAS, he embodied and lived the spirit and values of Paul Cuffee the man as Trustee, Board President and friend of Paul Cuffee School, using his voice and position to advance access and opportunity for historically-marginalized groups;

WHEREAS, his presence fostered a spirit of community, friendship, and partnership among school and government institutions, leveraging social capital for the betterment of students, and benefitting the Paul Cuffee School community including, and most notably, the acquisition of the Paul Cuffee Upper School building;

WHEREAS, he consistently pursued scholarship, including becoming an expert on Captain Paul Cuffee, revising the Rhode Island History Standards, and co-creating a Rhode Island African-American history curriculum;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Paul Cuffee School extends its most sincere and profound gratitude for our late brother Earl's contributions to our school community, and especially for his profound influence on the lives of our students and graduates who have benefited from his leadership example. We unanimously pledge to honor and continue his legacy as a champion of multicultural education by establishing the Earl N. Smith III Memorial Scholarship to be awarded to a deserving Paul Cuffee graduate who meets one or more of the agreed upon characteristics that Earl exemplified as determined by a Smith family representative and members of the Selection Committee.