

HAMPTON VA

NEWS RELEASE

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Shelman receives Distinguished Citizen Medal

Dec. 10, 2018 - Ralph W. Shelman, founder and executive director of Insight Enterprises and an expert on disability issues, will receive the city's Distinguished Citizen Medal Wednesday evening from Hampton City Council.

Established in 1964, the medal is Hampton's version of a key to the city.

Shelman is a graduate of Hampton Institute and Virginia Commonwealth University who has also completed post-graduate coursework in Gerontology at Hampton University. He has been a visiting lecturer at Christopher Newport College and Thomas Nelson Community College, and is co-founder of the Africa, African-American Disability Project, an organization that provided consultant services to African countries.

He is recognized throughout Virginia and the nation as a leader in the disability community, having been involved in the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act; the Virginians with Disabilities Act; and the development of other disability-related laws and policies.

Insight, started in 1982, provides independent living services to people with disabilities.

The resolution set to be approved by Hampton City Council Wednesday says, in part:

"Whereas, Mr. Shelman has been appointed by five Virginia governors to various boards and commissions" and "he co-chaired the Coalition for the Preservation of the Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind at Hampton, his alma mater...

"Now, therefore, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Hampton, Virginia that Ralph W. Shelman be, and hereby is, awarded the Hampton Distinguished Citizen Award for the contributions he has made to the city of Hampton and society."

Others who have received the Distinguished Citizen Medal include former NASA mathematician Katherine G. Johnson of "Hidden Figures" fame and former Hampton Mayor George Wallace. For a complete list of recipients, go to <http://hampton.gov/DocumentCenter/View/7488>.

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