



Resolution in Memory of B. Fielding Rolston

November 15, 2019

Whereas, Fielding Rolston served as a member of the National Assessment Governing Board representing the category of state school board member, from October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2019; and

Whereas, during his eight year term of service on the Governing Board, Fielding Rolston provided insightful leadership with wisdom, patience, skill, and tact, serving as chair of the Nominations Committee, co-chair of the Committee on Standards, Design and Methodology, and member of the Reporting and Dissemination Committee, the Executive Committee, and the Ad Hoc Committee on Parent Engagement; and

Whereas, Fielding Rolston's outstanding leadership as Chair of the Nominations Committee from 2017 to 2019 and his ardent advocacy in support of candidates for Board membership who reflect diversity is laudatory, earning him the respect and admiration of his fellow Board members and Board staff; and

Whereas, Fielding Rolston's remarkable contributions to the Governing Board included his work on the 2014 Technology and Engineering Literacy Assessment, research studies on 12th-grade preparedness for higher education and job training, and the Governing Board's effort to engage parents with the goal of improving student performance and closing achievement gaps; and

Whereas, Fielding Rolston provided invaluable service to the state of Tennessee as a leader in education and business through his nearly 25 years on the Tennessee State Board of Education. His commitment to raising expectations for student learning and elevating support for educators helped Tennessee become the fastest-improving state on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Reading and Mathematics assessments from 2011 to 2015; and

Whereas, Fielding Rolston's powerful advocacy for improving education in the Kingsport City Schools (KCS) earned him the accolade of servant leader and the KCS Champion of Education honor, one of only four recipients of this distinction to date; and

Whereas, Fielding Rolston led several organizations in the fields of higher education, health, and industry as board chair, including the Wellmont Health System, the Board of Trustees for Emory and Henry College, and the Eastman Credit Union Board of Directors, while he served for over 38 years with Eastman Chemical Company as industrial engineer and held management posts in industrial engineering, strategic planning, and human resources and communications.

Therefore, be it resolved that the National Assessment Governing Board expresses its deep appreciation for Fielding Rolston's tireless and outstanding service and for his significant contributions to NAEP and our nation's children; and that the Board conveys to his family our condolences and sincere sympathy upon his death; and

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be entered permanently into the minutes of the National Assessment Governing Board meeting of November 2019.