

Office of the President

October 12, 2024

Family of Mr. Benny Golson  
220 West 98<sup>th</sup> Street, Apt. 2B  
New York, New York 10025

Dear Family of Mr. Golson:

Dr. Laurence C. Morse, Chairman of Howard University's Board of Trustees, and I, Dr. Ben Vinson III, President, respectfully advise you of the adoption of the following resolution by the Howard University Board of Trustees:

**RESOLUTION**

The Board of Trustees of Howard University wishes to include in its official record an expression of sincere condolence to the family of Mr. Benny Golson, internationally renowned tenor saxophonist, innovative lyricist, composer and arranger, and gifted music educator.

The young Benny Golson arrived on Howard's campus from his home in Philadelphia in the fall of 1947 at a time when jazz music classes were not part of the School of Music's curricula. He and fellow classmates played for no credit in the school's jazz band, and Benny also performed with the Howard Swing Masters. Benny left Howard after three years to pursue his passion, but always credited Howard with helping to shape his career and with giving him a broader outlook on life and how he "fit into things."

Mr. Goldson got his first big break in 1951 and went on to perform with the most famous bands of the day, recording more than thirty albums over his illustrious career. He wrote more than three-hundred compositions, including eight jazz standards for repertoire. He arranged music for countless jazz luminaries, and composed music for classic television programs like *M\*A\*S\*H* and *Mission Impossible*.

A gifted music educator and communicator, Mr. Golson was a beloved emissary of the Golden Age of modern jazz. He was the recipient of the Guggenheim Fellowship and was a *National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Masters Fellow*, a national honor bestowed on only a select number of jazz legends. In 1996, the Howard University Jazz Ensemble created the prestigious *Benny Golson Jazz Master Award* in honor of Mr. Golson's extraordinary achievements. In 2014, Howard University conferred the honorary Doctor of Music to Mr. Golson in recognition of his legacy of *Excellence*, a core value of the University.

Words cannot adequately express our heartfelt sympathy to Mr. Golson's beloved wife, Mrs. Bobbie Hurd Golson, cherished daughter, Ms. Brielle Golson, and their entire family. The Board wishes to convey that all our members share in their loss.

**Be It Therefore Resolved:** This expression of sympathy in response to the death of Mr. Benny Golson be spread upon the minutes of the Board of Trustees of Howard University.

With sympathy and compassion,



Ben Vinson III, Ph.D.  
President

