

**CLEVELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**Board Meeting**  
May 19, 2016

**RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF ANDREW A. VENABLE, JR.**

- WHEREAS, Andrew A. Venable, Jr., served as the thirteenth Director of the Cleveland Public Library, "The People's University," from June 4, 1999, when the Honorable Louis Stokes administered the oath of office to him in this room, to June 30, 2008; and
- WHEREAS, While much attention has been paid to his tremendous accomplishments during his tenure as director, Mr. Venable himself regarded his earlier years at CPL, dating back to 1970, as equally significant and with an awareness he sought to instill in all staff that this library is a great library because "we, today, stand on the shoulders of our predecessors"; and
- WHEREAS, It was this deep and sincere appreciation he had for the contributions and service of each individual staff member, at all levels of the organization, in every agency, building and department, and how "together we achieve the extraordinary" that caused him to consider what his own legacy would be; and
- WHEREAS, Mr. Venable often quoted Dr. Benjamin E. Mays: "Whatever one touches, his aim should always be to leave that which he touches better than he found it"; and
- WHEREAS, Should there be any question as to whether Andrew Venable left Cleveland Public Library better than he found it, let it be answered now: he not only left the Library better than he found it, he left each person he encountered during his time here better for the experience; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees of the Cleveland Public Library expresses its gratitude at the memory of this remarkable and talented man, and that a copy of this resolution be sent to the family of Andrew Venable, as an expression of sympathy from this Board.