

STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION 2023-1291

TITLE: **A Resolution in Loving Memory of Andrew Thomas Bishop**

AUTHOR(S): Judiciary Committee Vice Chairperson & DEI Liaison to the Student Senate
Joaquin Rafaele C. Marcelino

SPONSORS: UF Filipino Student Association President Rafael “Rocky” Villanueva; UF Filipino Student Association Vice President of External Affairs Nicelle Caseñas; the 2023–2024 Executive Board of the UF Filipino Student Association; University of Florida Rho Chapter of Kappa Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc., President Jasmine Looi; University of Florida Alpha Delta Chapter of alpha Kappa Delta Phi International Sorority, Inc., Performance Chair Caleigh Zaguirre; the 2023–2024 Executive Board of Baking4Wellness; the 2023–2024 Executive Board of the Korean Undergraduate Student Association; the 2023–2024 Executive Board of Diversify: Dance and Design; First Year Leadership Program Co-Director Matthew Li; Senator Simone Liang; UF Chinese American Student Association Videographer Morgan Hurd; UF Filipino Student Association Vice President of Internal Affairs Johannah Tador; UF EMPRESS Interest Group Internal Vice President Bipasha Shrestha; UF Bangladeshi Student Association Director of Outreach Malaica Ashley; Health Educated Asian Leaders co-Presidents Ashly Almendrala & Andrew Chung; Health Educated Asian Leaders External Vice President Brandon Nguyen; STAAR Outreach Director Janelle Sumbelling; UF Japanese Student Association Multimedia Chair Thien-Y Nguyen; Judiciary Chairperson Jonathan C. Stephens; Senator Saketh Damera; Senator Laurie Wang; Senator Matthew Reich; Senator John Lin

WHEREAS, The members of Surge Interest Group based in Gainesville wish to support legislation in Andrew Thomas Bishop’s name, its Executive and Chair Board: President Kieran Abesamis, Internal Vice President Matthew To, External Vice President Karl Delos Reyes, Vice President of Membership Bryan Kim, and Multimedia Chair Preston Le; and,

WHEREAS, Alumni of the University of Florida wish to support legislation in Andrew Thomas Bishop’s name, including Janellis Malespin and Michael “Mikee” Orense, who also represents a Filipino advocacy group in Washington, DC, Malaya Movement; and,

WHEREAS, Members of the alma mater of Andrew Thomas Bishop, Stanton College Preparatory School, wish to support legislation in Andrew Thomas Bishop’s name, including Izabella Kathryn Delos Reyes, the officers of the 2023–2024 Student Government Association, and the members of the 2023–2024 Multicultural Student Association; and,

WHEREAS, Members of the sister schools of the University of Florida in the State University

System, including the University of Central Florida (UCF) and the University of North Florida (UNF), wish to support legislation in Andrew Thomas Bishop's name, including Jazmyn Nidiffer and Christian Kim, also representing the UCF Filipino Student Association and the UCF Asian Student Association (ASA); and,

WHEREAS, Andrew Thomas Bishop was a third-year student at the University of Florida in the Class of 2025 from Jacksonville, Florida, and Class of 2021 graduate of Stanton College Preparatory School with an International Baccalaureate diploma; and,

WHEREAS, Andrew passed away on the 16th day of October, in the year 2023, aged 20, following a car accident in the middle of the night of the 14th day of October, in the year 2023, with two (2) other occupants, who are now recovering from their injuries [1,2]; and,

WHEREAS, This accident was the result of a prior crash on the highway, with the prior crash's vehicles left unattended, with no lights on, in the middle of the highway, thus not allowing the driver of the vehicle, which Andrew was in, visibility of the prior crash; and,

WHEREAS, Andrew was an active member of the University of Florida community and beyond who impacted and contributed much to the community; and,

WHEREAS, Andrew was serving as the 2023–2024 Executive Vice President of the Filipino Student Association at the University of Florida, overseeing the daily operations of the Filipino Student Association, its chairs, its activities, and its members, at large [3]; and,

WHEREAS, Andrew has been responsible for choreographing multiple traditional and modern cultural dances in his capacity as an active member of the Asian American Student Union at the University of Florida, most particularly for University of Florida Student Activities and Involvement Signature Events such as the Asian American Student Assembly and Def Talent Jam hosted by the Filipino Student Association [4,5,6,7]; and,

WHEREAS, Andrew was involved in The Ace Company, a dance group founded by an alumnus of the University of Florida, based in Gainesville and has performed for a number of University of Florida-affiliated events—he joined in the Class of Gen 3 of The Ace Company [7]; and,

WHEREAS, Andrew recently performed with The Ace Company at the 2023 University of Florida Homecoming Soulfest [7]; and,

WHEREAS, Andrew was involved in Surge Interest Group, an organization based in Gainesville whose mission it is to foster “leaders among men” through its pillars of “Courage, Camaraderie, and Culture” and is comprised of many University of Florida students heavily involved within the University of Florida community and beyond, including the Asian American Student Union [8]; and,

WHEREAS, Andrew has choreographed for and shared his love and advocacy of culture throughout his tenure at the University of Florida by dancing and choreographing for pieces for

the Filipino Student Association, The Ace Company, and Surge Interest Group for numerous events involving the Asian American Student Union at the University of Florida [4,5,6,7,8]; and,

WHEREAS, Andrew was given an honor walk at HCA Florida Ocala Hospital on the evening of the 16th day of October, in the year 2023, prior to his wish to become an organ donor to be fulfilled, giving a new chance at life to three (3) other individuals [9]; and,

WHEREAS, Several schools and organizations throughout the state, such as the University of Florida Filipino Student Association, University of Florida Student Activities and Involvement Signature Event Def Talent Jam XXXI, The Ace Company, Surge Interest Group, students from the University of North Florida, students from the University of Central Florida, the Multicultural Association of Stanton College Preparatory School, and the Student Government Association of Stanton College Preparatory School [4,5,6,7,8,10,11,12]; and,

WHEREAS, Andrew is remembered in his obituary with the following words: “It’s important to value the moments you have and opportunities given to you,” “[t]o the people in my life right now, thank you for showing me the importance of community and being both an individual but also someone who can have empathy and compassion for the people around them,” “I’ve been feeling really thankful for the people I’ve met” [1]; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED That the University of Florida Student Government Senate and the University of Florida community celebrate, acknowledge, and remember the life, accolades, and contributions of Andrew Thomas Bishop to the University of Florida, to his community, and to his loved ones.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED That the University of Florida Student Government Senate and the University of Florida community stand solemnly with those that he loved, his family and friends, and all those communities and organizations he was a part of in their grievances, mourning, and loss.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED That the University of Florida Student Government Senate recognizes and remains staunch in its position to support all individuals and communities of the University of Florida and its broader community, in advocating for their safety, preservation of diversity, and uplifting each voice.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED That the University of Florida Student Government Senate advocates for safe traffic practices and better safety habits on the road to prevent crashes and to better address when accidents do occur.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED That the University of Florida Student Government Senate advocates for better traffic safety and calls on the state of Florida and local governments throughout the state, with aid from the federal government, to better lighting on highways and invest in safer transportation infrastructure for the general welfare of the state and of the country.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to University President Dr. Ben Sasse, Governor of the state of Florida Ron DeSantis, Secretary of the Florida Department of Transportation Jared W. Perdue, Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration Shailen Bhatt, UF Filipino Student Association President Rafael “Rocky” Villanueva, The Ace Company co-Director Janika Stokling, Surge Interest Group President Kieran Abesamis, Shannon Steep Bishop (Mother of Andrew Bishop), Dan Bishop (Father of Andrew Bishop), Megan Poole (Sister of Andrew Bishop), and Angela J. Bishop (Aunt of Andrew Bishop).

The contact information of the relatives of Andrew T. Bishop may be found in the links provided below via Facebook at the convenience of the Secretaries of the Senate.

- [1]: https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/jacksonville-fl/andrew-bishop-11502179?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=share_obit&utm_content=obituary&fbclid=IwAR376bAHOTnN9T7E3sD0ghipwDM7Lq00STGdEI7kdvSkw77T7QBH4TYjav0
- [2]: <https://www.facebook.com/shannon.steepbishop>
- [3]: <https://orgs.studentinvolvement.ufl.edu/Organization/Filipino-Student-Association>
- [4]: https://www.instagram.com/_andrew_bishop/
- [5]: <https://www.instagram.com/uffsa/>
- [6]: <https://www.instagram.com/uffsawolfpack/>
- [7]: <https://www.instagram.com/p/CxzRQx9t8Xl/>
- [8]: <https://www.instagram.com/gvsurge/>
- [9]: <https://www.facebook.com/Angiejb1968>
- [10]: <https://www.instagram.com/deftalentjam/>
- [11]: <https://www.instagram.com/stantonmulticultural/>
- [12]: <https://www.instagram.com/stantonsga/>