

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

Adopted by the Regents

ACTION REQUEST

May 17, 2007

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

George I. Shirley, B.S., Joseph Edgar Maddy Distinguished University Professor of Music and professor of music (voice) in the School of Music, Theatre & Dance, will retire from active faculty status on May 31, 2007.

Professor Shirley received his B.S. degree from Wayne State University in 1955. That year, he became the first African-American high school vocal music teacher in the Detroit Public Schools, and after being drafted into the U.S. Army in 1956, he became the first African-American member of the U.S. Army Chorus. In 1961, he won the Metropolitan Opera auditions and became the first African-American tenor and only the second African-American male to sing leading roles with the Met, where he remained for eleven years. Professor Shirley was Artist-in-Residence at Morgan State University in Baltimore from 1975-76, the Andrew W. Mellon Humanist-in-Residence at Howard University in 1979, and was a professor of music at the University of Maryland from 1980-87, where he was also named the Distinguished Scholar-Teacher for 1985-86. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as a professor of music (voice) in 1987 and was named the Joseph Edgar Maddy Distinguished University Professor of Music in 1992.

Professor Shirley is in demand nationally and internationally as a performer, teacher, and lecturer. He has won international critical acclaim for his performances on the world's foremost opera stages, and has performed more than 80 operatic roles with many of the world's most renowned conductors. In 1968 he won a Grammy Award for his role as Ferrando in the RCA recording of Mozart's *Così fan tutte*. He has also recorded for Columbia, Decca, Angel, Vanguard, CRI, and Philips.

The Regents now salute this musician, singer, and extraordinary teacher by naming **George I. Shirley the Joseph Edgar Maddy Distinguished University Professor Emeritus of Music and professor emeritus of music (voice)**.

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill

Vice President and Secretary of the University

May 2007