

Richmond Times-Dispatch

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WILLIAM J. ‘BILL’ MARTIN DIES AT 71



CLEMENT BRITT, TIMES-DISPATCH

William J. “Bill” Martin was photographed outside the Wickham House at the Valentine in 2018. That year, the director of the Valentine was an inductee into the RTD Person of the Year Hall of Fame for his lasting contributions to the community.

AN ENDURING LEGACY



ALEXA WELCH EDLUND, TIMES-DISPATCH

Richmond Christmas Mother Elaine Perkinson speaks during Court End Christmas on Dec. 9, 2012, as William J. Martin listens outside the museum. Martin, 71, worked at the Valentine for more than 30 years and is credited with transforming the museum during his tenure.

Director left an indelible impact on Valentine, greater community

COLLEEN CURRAN
AND CHELSEA JACKSON
Richmond Times-Dispatch

William J. Martin, director of the Valentine museum in Richmond, was struck by a car on Saturday on North 10th Street and East Broad Street. He was brought to VCU Medical Center, where he died on Sunday.

“We are heartbroken to share the passing of Valentine Director Bill Martin,” Meg Hughes, a spokesperson for the museum, wrote via email. “Bill was seriously injured in a traffic accident on Saturday and passed away on Sunday, while receiving care. He was a deeply respected leader, colleague and friend. His dedication to sharing Richmond’s stories has left an indelible impact on the Valentine and the greater community. The Valentine’s Board of Trustees and leadership team are working closely to ensure continuity of the museum’s work. We do not have additional information to share at this time.”

Martin, 71, worked at the

Valentine for more than 30 years and is credited with transforming the museum during his tenure. The Valentine tells the history of Richmond, deftly handling the complex history of its past while looking at its future.

On Saturday at 2:10 p.m., Richmond police officers were called to the scene of the accident and found Martin, down and injured in the eastbound lanes of East Broad Street.

Richmond police determined an adult male driver of the vehicle made a left turn from North 10th Street onto the eastbound lanes of East Broad Street and struck Martin while he was in the crosswalk. Charges are pending for the driver of the vehicle.

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VIEW: To see more photos of William J. “Bill” Martin over the years, point your smartphone camera at the QR code, then click the link.

NEWSVU

WAR IN UKRAINE

Trump: Sides ‘closer than ever’ to peace

He hosts Zelenskyy in Florida following phone call with Putin

WILL WEISSERT, SEUNG MIN KIM
AND ELISE MORTON
Associated Press

PALM BEACH, Fla. — President Donald Trump on Sunday insisted Ukraine and Russia are “closer than ever before” to a peace deal as he hosted Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy at his Florida resort, but he acknowledged the negotiations are complex and could still break down, leaving the war dragging on for years.

The president’s statements came after the leaders met for

talks following what Trump said was an “excellent,” 2 1/2-hour phone conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin, whose invasion of Ukraine launched the war nearly four years ago. Trump insisted he believed Putin still wants peace, even as Russia launched another round of attacks on Ukraine while Zelenskyy flew to the United States for the latest round of negotiations.

“Russia wants to see Ukraine succeed,” Trump said during a late afternoon news conference as he stood with Zelenskyy after their meeting. He repeatedly praised his counterpart as “brave.”

Trump and Zelenskyy both

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ALEX BRANDON, ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Donald Trump and Ukraine’s President Volodymyr Zelenskyy shake hands at the start of a joint news conference following a meeting at Trump’s Mar-a-Lago club Sunday in Palm Beach, Fla.

ELECTION 2026

Reeves drops out of Senate contest

GOP now lacking name recognition in bid to unseat Warner

ANDREW CAIN
Richmond Times-Dispatch

State Sen. Bryce Reeves, R-Orange, announced Sunday that he is dropping his 2026 bid to oust U.S. Sen. Mark Warner, D-Va., citing “a serious family health matter.”

Reeves’ departure from the contest leaves the GOP — as yet — with no challenger to Warner who has significant name recognition.

“A serious family health matter and the realities of timing require my full attention at home. My faith and my family come first,” Reeves said in a post on X.

“I remain fully committed to serving the citizens of Virginia’s 28th Senatorial District and look forward to seeking re-election to my Senate seat in 2027. My work continues in the General Assembly to protect our AAA bond rating, strengthen our economy, and ensure Virginia remains the best place in America for our military and veterans.”

The remaining announced candidates for the GOP U.S. Senate nomination are Kim Farington of Fairfax County, who

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HENRICO COUNTY

Physicians top list of highest earners

Salaries of 4,500 county employees up by a combined \$30M

SAMUEL B. PARKER
Richmond Times-Dispatch

This year, Henrico County’s 4,500 employees are set to collectively earn \$361,721,180, according to payroll records obtained by The Times-Dispatch through a Virginia Freedom of Information Act request.

That’s roughly \$30 million more than last year, distributed across 162 more employees — even as county officials cut the real estate tax rate by 2 cents and the personal property tax rate by 5 cents.

Five of the seven highest-paid employees are physicians, the

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ONLINE: Search our database of Henrico County employee salaries by aiming your cellphone camera at the QR code and tapping the link.

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4 dead, dozens injured in Syria during clashes

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Weather

Showers, then breezy

High 62

Low 28

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