

RECOGNIZING NOVANT HEALTH
FOR ITS COMMITMENT TO
NORTHERN VIRGINIA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Novant Health for their commitment to the health and well-being of Northern Virginia residents.

Novant Health is an integrated network of hospitals, outpatient centers, and physician practices spanning four states and servicing more than 4 million patients annually including many in Northern Virginia. The Metropolitan area houses two of Novant Health's fourteen health care centers: Novant Health Prince William Medical Center located in Manassas and Novant Health Haymarket Medical Center. Other regional facilities include Novant Health Cancer Center, two surgery centers, Novant Wound Care & Hyperbaric Medicine, and Novant Health Breast Center.

In 2013, Novant Health provided more than \$21 million in charity care and services in Northern Virginia. Novant Health is one of the top 25 integrated health systems in the United States and was named a top 50 "Best Places for Diverse & Women Managers to Work" by Diversity MBA Magazine.

Showcasing its commitment to active community engagement, Novant Health reaches beyond the walls of its many health facilities. Novant Health actively seeks out community health outreach efforts as part of the patient-oriented delivery model.

One time-tested initiative is as the Hylton Presents Season Sponsor since the inaugural 2010–2011 season, as well as the namesake of the Novant Health Rehearsal Room. In addition to philanthropic support, Novant Health regularly hosts community and physicians events at the Hylton Center as a continued supporter of the center and Northern Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Novant Health as the 5th Hylton Center for Performing Arts Anniversary Gala honoree for its commitment to improving the health of Northern Virginia, one person at a time.

IN TRIBUTE TO SHARON ADAMS

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sharon Adams, a mentor, community leader, and administrator. She is the Founder and Director of Programs for Walnut Way Conservation Corp and after 15 years of service transitions from her position on December 21, 2015.

Sharon Adams moved back to Milwaukee in 1997 from New York and found the once-vibrant Lindsay Heights neighborhood where she grew up lined with boarded-up houses, trash-filled lots, gangs, prostitution and drugs. This spurred her and her neighbors to organize Walnut Way, a grassroots association whose motto is to "Reclaim, Restore, and Repurpose". The organization's headquarters is

a former drug den and 100 year old structure that has been restored and transformed into the community's nerve center.

Ms. Adams and Walnut Way pushed for the revitalization of North Avenue and the Lindsay Heights Community. The blight is now gone, replaced by restored and newly built houses, rain and vegetable gardens and fruit orchards, youth trained in urban agriculture, a bee aviary to harvest and sell honey, a tree nursery to expand the canopy, and work with police to improve safety. They run an award winning business called Blue Skies that employs youth and others from the community for their landscaping operation.

Sharon has capped off her remarkable urban renewal effort with the completion of The Innovations and Wellness Commons. The Commons will serve nearly 8000 residents living in and surrounding the Lindsay Heights neighborhood. Funds for this venture include significant dollars from federal, state and local governments, the Zilber Family Foundation, and many others. Nearly 30 jobs were created for low income workers by this project. The Commons include Outpost Natural Foods Coop that operates four large organic grocery stores in the Milwaukee area, the Juice Kitchen, a business operated by experienced entrepreneurs specializing in vegetarian meals all sited in a setting that allows for holistic approaches to healthy living such as healing circles, fitness classes and meditation. This economically distressed area is no longer a food desert but a haven providing an environment for healthy living and jobs.

This is Sharon Adams' second retirement, she left the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee in 2008 as Director of Service Learning to head Walnut Way. She helped create other neighborhood organizations, including the Lindsay Heights Neighborhood Health Alliance to reduce health disparities and the Lindsay Heights Neighborhood Quality of Life Plan, part of the Zilber Neighborhood Initiative, a \$50 million program to revive low-income Milwaukee neighborhoods in 10 years.

Sharon Adams is also the Wisconsin 2010 Social Innovation Prize Award Winner, an award given to an individual over age 50 who addresses critical social problems. The prize includes \$5,000, as well as, another \$5000 to be designated by the winner to an organization.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Ms. Sharon Adams who leaves a legacy of advocacy and compassion. She is a true trailblazer who has labored to attract investment and lead the Lindsay Heights Neighborhood to prosperity and good health. The citizens of the Fourth Congressional District, the State of Wisconsin and the nation have benefited tremendously from her dedicated service. I am honored for these reasons to pay tribute to Ms. Sharon Adams.

THE RETIREMENT OF DR.
WILLIAM "BRIT" KIRWAN

HON. DONNA F. EDWARDS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and to congratulate Dr. William "Brit" Kirwan on his well-deserved retirement. Dr.

Kirwan served for 12 years as the chancellor of the University System of Maryland, and I know that his principled character and educational capability will be sorely missed.

It has been my pleasure to work with him over the years in his capacity as chancellor of the University System, but long before becoming chancellor, Dr. Kirwan first taught mathematics over at the University's College Park campus. After turns as department chair and provost at College Park, as president he had a direct hand in designing the framework for the University System of Maryland itself.

Dr. Kirwan's expertise on higher education helped the University System grow to be one of the largest and most respected educational institutions in the country. Students and educators have thrived under his leadership and the surrounding Maryland community has benefited from having such a capable and qualified university in its midst.

In fact, Dr. Kirwan's expertise is recognized by so many that, in the fall of 2013, he was asked to serve as co-chair of the Senate's Task Force on Federal Regulation of Higher Education. The resulting report provided clear suggestions aimed at helping colleges and universities to prioritize improving the quality of education and readying their students for the demands of the 21st century.

I want to thank Dr. Kirwan for his committed and passionate service to the University System—his legacy will live on in the accomplished faculty and students whom he served so well. Thank you Brit, and we wish you the best in your retirement.

A DAY IN HONOR OF BENJAMIN
EARL KING

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life, legacy, and work of Benjamin Earl King; who was a Singer, Record Producer and Composer of some of America's greatest soul music and hit songs such as "Stand By Me" & "Spanish Harlem." He is a legendary and well known musician. He has had many accomplishments throughout his entire life. Mr. King was also extremely active in his charitable foundation, the Stand By Me Foundation, which helps to provide education to deserving youths. On Thursday, December 10th, 2015, at Harlem's historic Interchurch Center at The Riverside Church; The Office of Congressman CHARLES B. RANGEL, Voza Rivers/New Heritage Theatre Group, The Interchurch Center & Harlem Music Fest In Partnership With Community Works presents "Celebrating the Music of Ben E. King," to memorialize Ben E. King's contributions to the Harlem community and beyond.

The celebration featured musical guest performances by Rhythm & Blues Legends Chuck Jackson, Maxine Brown, Beverly Crosby, Wild Women featuring (Maxine Brown, Beverly Crosby & Sherryl Marshall) and Soul Vocalist Joe Coleman. The evening culminated in a very special musical performance by Al Orlo, who served as Ben E. King's Lead Guitarist for 25 years and his Musical Director from 1996–2015.

From the groundbreaking orchestrated productions of the Drifters to his own solo hits,