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 Disease & 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 old houses, rain and vegetable gardens and fruit orchards, youth trained in urban agriculture, a bee apiary 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 includes Natural Foods Co-op 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 situated 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 2009 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 “BRT” 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 “Brt” 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 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. RANGET 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 anthems 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 Composers/Performers/New York International Arts Festival presented “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 & Sheryl 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 fourteen years and his Musical Director from 1996–2015.

From the groundbreaking orchestrated productions of the Drifters to his own solo hits,
Ben E. King was the definition of R&B elegance. King's plaintive baritone had all the passion of gospel; however the settings in which he was displayed with his honey smooth phrasing and crisp enunciation, proved, for perhaps the first time, that R&B could be soulful, and capable of pop appeal. King's approach influenced countless smooth soul singers in his wake, and his records were key forerunners of the Motown sound.

On September 28, 1938, King was born under the given name of Benjamin Earl Nelson in Henderson, North Carolina, where he sang with his church choir before the family moved to Harlem in 1947. In junior high, he began performing with a street corner doo wop group called the Four B's, which won second place in a national talent contest. While attending high school, he was offered a chance to join the Moonglows, but was simply too young and inexperienced to stick. He subsequently worked at his father's restaurant as a singing waiter, which led to an invitation to join the Five Crowns to assume the name of the Drifters. Treadwell, dissatisfied with the group members' reliability and lack of success, fired them all in the summer of 1958 and hired the Five Crowns to assume the name of the Drifters.

The new Drifters toured for about a year, playing to hostile audiences who knew they were a completely different group. In early 1959, they went into the studio with producers Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller to cut their first record under their new lead singer, Clyde McPhatter departed. Drifters manager George Treadwell, dissatisfied with the group members' unreliability and lack of success, fired them all in the summer of 1958 and hired the Five Crowns to assume the name of the Drifters.

In 1960, Nelson approached Treadwell about a salary increase and a fairer share of the group's royalties. Treadwell rebuffed him and Nelson quit the group, at this point assuming the more memorable stage name Ben E. King in preparation for a solo career. Remaining on Atlantic, King scored his first solo hit with the stylish, Latin-tinged ballad "Spanish Harlem," a Jerry Leiber/Phil Spector composition that hit the Top Ten in early 1961. The follow-up, "Stand By Me," a heartfelt ode to friendship and devotion co-written by King, became his signature song and an enduring R&B classic; it was also his biggest hit, topping the R&B charts and reaching the pop Top Five.

King scored a few more chart singles through 1963, including velvety smooth soul productions like "Amor," "Don't Play That Song (You Lied)," and the Italian tune "I (Who Have Nothing)." In the post-British Invasion years, King had a rough go of it on the pop charts but continued to score R&B hits. 1967's Southern-fried "What Is Soul?" was one of his last singles for Atco before departing the label in 1969.

In 1975, Atlantic president Ahmet Ertegun caught King's act in a Miami lounge and invited him to re-sign with the label. King scored an unlikely comeback smash with the disco track "Supernatural Thing, Pt. I," which returned him to the top of the R&B charts in 1975 and also reached the pop Top Five. While he struggled with the success of his first solo album, King recorded several more albums for Atlantic up through 1981, and also collaborated with the Average White Band in 1977 on the album Benny & Us. After leaving Atlantic a second time, King toured in a version of the Drifters beginning in 1982.

In 1986, "Stand by Me" was prominently featured in the Rob Reiner film of the same name; re-released as a single, it climbed into the Top Ten all over again. In its wake, King returned to solo recording, issuing albums every few years. He also guested on recordings by Heaven 17 and Mark Knopfler, among others. King's 1999 album Shades of Blue (on Half Note Records) found him branching out into jazz territory, performing with a big band and guests like Milt Jackson and David "Fathead" Newman.

On March 27, 2012, the Songwriters Hall of Fame announced that "Stand By Me" would receive its 2012 Towing Song Award and that King would be honored with the 2012 Towing Performance Award for his recording of the song. King toured the United Kingdom in 2013 and played concerts in the United States as late as 2014, despite reported health problems. Ben E. King died on April 30, 2015, after a brief illness. King has been covered by acts from several genres and artists including Shirley Bassey, Tom Jones in 1970 and Sylvester. "Till I Can't Get It Anymore" was revisited by peer Ray Charles in 1970 and "Spanish Harlem" was sung by Aretha Franklin in 1971. "Stand By Me" was covered by Otis Redding, John Lennon and Mickey Gilley. King also inspired several rock bands: Siouxsie and the Banshees recorded "Supernatural Thing" in 1981 and Led Zeppelin did a cover version of "Groovin," more known under the title of "We're Gonna Groove."

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing Benjamin Earl King, and honoring his truly pioneering work, dedication, and great accomplishments; worthy of our Nation's highest artistic and charitable esteem. He is an example of someone who used his raw talent to become a legendary figure, and set the groundwork for many others that followed.

Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was $10,626,877,048,913.06. Today, it is $18,788,138,221,346.94. We've added $8,161,261,172,243.41 to our debt in 6 years. This is over $8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

Mr. Speaker, the Church Plan Clarification Act is simply about fixing the rules that govern how church plans operate and serve their participants.