

RESOLUTION

ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Kevin Leavy
INITIATED BY



7/5/2023
DATE DRAFTED

Honoring Walter Knight

Whereas, Walter R. Knight passed away on Tuesday, June 20, 2023 at the age of 89 after serving the Beloit and Rock County community; and,

Whereas, Mr. Knight was born in Arkansas, moved to Beloit at the age of 16, and married the former Sadie Mae Brown, and was the father to four daughters; and

Whereas, Mr. Knight began working for Fairbanks Morse at the age of 18, working there for 25 years in the following positions: Community Relations Representative, Machinist, Grievance Committeeman, Vice President, and President of the United Steelworkers of America, Local 1533; and,

Whereas, Mr. Knight served as the Executive Director of the Rock County Opportunities Industrialization Center for over 30 years, from 1976 to 1999. The organization provided training, education, and job placement services for the community; and,

Whereas, Mr. Knight was the first African American to be elected to the Beloit City Council and served as Vice President and President; and

Whereas, Mr. Knight was the first African American to be appointed to the Beloit Police and Fire Commission where he served as Secretary, Vice President, and President, as well as serving on several other Beloit City committees; and

Whereas, Mr. Knight is remembered and mourned not only by his wonderful family, but by an entire community that benefited so much from his selfless leadership; and

Whereas, the best word to describe Walter Knight was “respect.” Mr. Knight gave it and earned it; and

Whereas, for those who vividly recall Mr. Knight’s long career and involvement in Beloit and Rock County-area public affairs, a stand-out quality was his peaceful, gentle and soft-spoken style, who worked to bring people together, to change minds through reason and respect, to overcome hate and bias by love and fair play.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled this 13th day of July, 2023 does hereby honor the life of Walter R. Knight and extends its sincerest condolences to his wife, daughters, family members and loved ones.

Committee Action

County Board Staff Committee

County Board Staff Committee recommended this resolution for approval by a unanimous voice vote.