

## CITY MANAGER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Walter R. Knight Bridge Unveiling Scheduled for June 22**

**June 14, 2019** - The Portland Avenue bridge over the Rock River will soon bear the name “Walter R. Knight” as a way to honor a well-respected resident who has contributed greatly to the Beloit community.

The monument unveiling and ribbon cutting event at the Portland Avenue bridge is planned for 11 a.m. Saturday, June 22, as part of the Juneteenth celebration.

The Beloit City Council approved the honorary naming of the bridge in November.

Knight moved to Beloit when he was 18 years old to work for Fairbanks Morse, where he held the roles of community relations representative, machinist, and president of the United Steelworkers of America-Local 1533. After a 25-year career with Fairbanks Morse, Knight served as the executive director of the Rock County Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC) for over 30 years; the organization provided job training, education and job placement services for the community.

As a civic leader, Knight served on the Beloit City Council from 1972-1986, including serving two terms as president. He also served as secretary and chairman of the Police and Fire Commission and on a variety of ad-hoc committees.

Knight also served as chairman of the Governor’s Committee on Minority Business Development, president of the Beloit Breakfast Optimist Club International, and on the National Human Resources Committee - National League of Cities-Washington, D.C. in addition to serving the community in many other various religious, civic, cultural, and educational aspects of our community.

Knight’s commitment to being a leader in our community has caused many to respect him for his integrity, civility, and respect for diversity.

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