

JOIN US TO RECOGNIZE OUTSTANDING BUSINESS LEADERS

The **Wilmington Rotary Club** invites you to the third annual **Leaders in Service** awards banquet at 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 1, at the UNCW Burney Center.

Each year for more than a century, the Wilmington Rotary Club has been contributing thousands of dollars and hundreds of volunteer hours to our community. This helps make New Hanover County a great place to live and work for all people. Funds raised from this event, our major fundraising effort of the year, will be used for the club's projects and grants to other community organizations in the fiscal year 2024-25.

Following the Rotary motto of Service Above Self, we are recognizing leaders of honesty and integrity who are setting an example by their good work. We asked the community for nominations, from which two independent panels of community leaders selected three outstanding individuals.

Please join us in honoring the 2024 Leaders in Service recipients: **Brian McMerty, private sector; Dr. Charles Hardy, public sector; and Connie Parker, nonprofit sector.**

This year, we will also present our first-ever Legacy Award to Bertha Todd.

Those being honored have served as leaders of local organizations and have lived lives in harmony with Rotary's Four-Way Test, with a commitment to diversity and inclusion. They truly exemplify Service Above Self.

If you have not yet registered to attend this important celebration of outstanding community leaders, banquet seats are still available. You can reserve yours online at www.leadersinservice.org.

Respectfully yours,

Nancy Bullock, president
Wilmington Rotary Club

Leaders in Service

Service Above Self



Awards Banquet

6 to 9 p.m.

Wednesday, May 1

UNCW Burney Center

Order your tickets online at

www.leadersinservice.org

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Platinum, \$10,000; Gold, \$5,000; Silver: \$2,500; Friends, \$1,000.

To learn more about how Wilmington Rotary Club is using sponsor contributions to make Wilmington a better place to live, work, and raise families, see wilmingtonrotaryclub.org

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MEET the 2024 LEADERS in SERVICE

Public Sector



Dr. Charles Hardy was the founding dean of UNC-Wilmington's College of Health and Human Services. He has also served several non-profits offering health and human services. His award recognizes his years of effort to increase the number of health professionals available to work in New Hanover County and in the broader region. His award reflects work toward three of Rotary International's areas of focus: disease prevention and treatment, maternal and child health, and economic and community development.

Non-Profit Sector



Connie Parker founded Wilmington Health Access for Teens in 1995, and remains its executive director emeritus. She has also served on numerous boards and advisory councils involved with medical care and mental health for teens. Parker is also devoted to restoring Wilmington's tree canopy. She founded and leads the Alliance for Cape Fear Trees. Her work supports several of the Rotary areas of focus: maternal and child health, economic and community development, and the environment.

Private Sector



Brian McMerty is a managing partner of Arris Partners, an executive-search firm. He helped lead the merger of two racially divided organizations to form the Boys & Girls Club of Southeastern North Carolina. He established Men on a Mission at Wilmington's St. James Episcopal Church, organizing parishioners to aid non-profits including Good Shepherd Center. He and his wife led the conservation of environmentally sensitive local sites through Coastal Land Trust. His work supports Rotary's areas of focus on health, education, economic development, and the environment.

LEGACY AWARD



The Wilmington Rotary Club will be presenting our new Legacy Award, created to recognize people who have made major contributions, over many years, to improving our community's quality of life.

Bertha Boykin Todd, 95, a retired educator and long-time activist for racial justice and reconciliation, will receive this award on May 1.

From 1952 until it was closed in 1968, Mrs. Todd was librarian at the all-Black Williston High School. Transferred to the new, racially integrated Hoggard High School, she worked tirelessly to defuse racial tensions that followed desegregation during the troubled years 1968 through 1971. She would become an assistant principal, retiring in 1992.

She soon became co-chair of The 1898 Centennial Foundation, organized to memorialize the deadly white-supremacist insurrection that overturned Wilmington's racially mixed city government. Todd drafted the Foundation's statement of philosophy, which said all of Wilmington's residents shared the responsibility to understand our city's history and "to make our community one where economic justice and racial harmony flourish." After 1998, she worked to create a memorial to the 1898 insurrection, which now stands on North Third Street.

Todd has been on local and state human-relations boards, advised mayors, school superintendents and governors, and served numerous local non-profits and professional organizations. Her many honors include North Carolina's Order of the Long Leaf Pine and a UNCW honorary doctorate of humanities.

She has lived a life that fully embraces the behaviors identified in Rotary's Four-Way Test, has demonstrated significant courage to defend these principles, and has maintained a constructive approach to address the need for racial equality.

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