

# Hometown Heroes Luncheon set for April 1 at Angel Museum

By DEBRA JENSEN DE HART For the Daily News | Posted: Monday, March 14, 2016 4:00 pm

BELOIT — The Angel Museum is to honor its “Hometown Heroes” and is inviting the public to attend a special luncheon set for noon on April 1 at 656 Pleasant St.

The event is held each year to recognize the personal achievements and contributions African Americans have made to the community.

“The idea is to honor our black community leaders,” said Bev Melton, Angel Museum Board President.

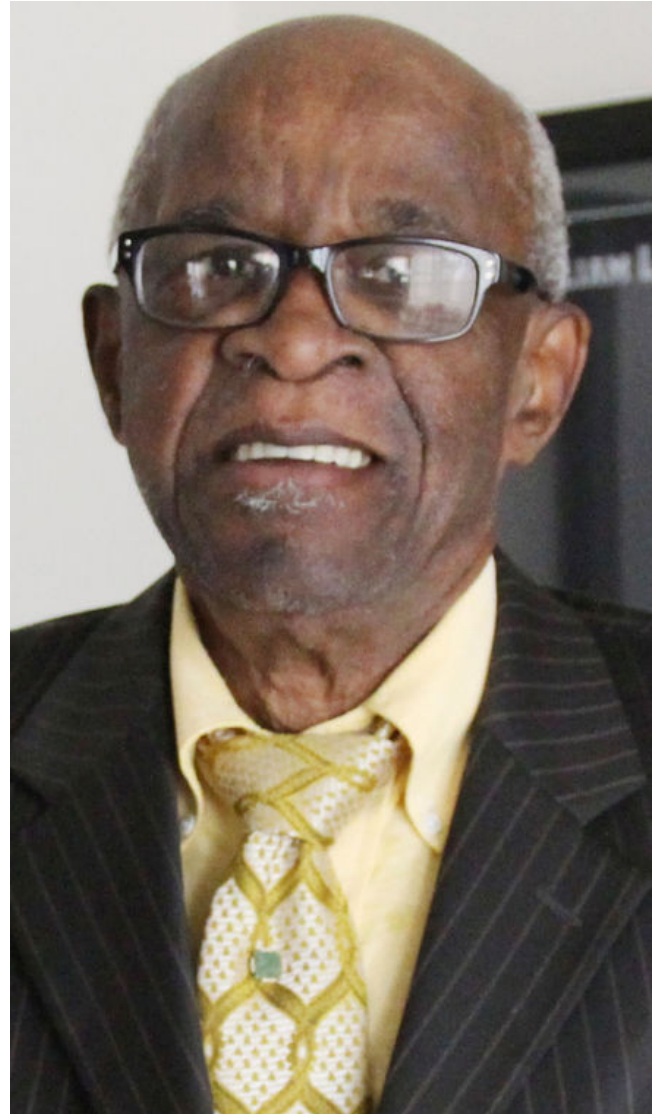
The honorees are as follows:

## **William “Youngblood” McCrary**

McCrary participated in the Negro League and his photo has hung in the Negro League Hall of Fame. He also was among the 2014 inductees into the Beloit Historical Society’s Elliott-Perring Sports Hall of Fame.

He was a sandlot star in Beloit and played with several of the city’s all-black baseball teams before he signed with the Kansas City Monarchs. He was given the nickname “Youngblood” by then-teammate Satchel Paige. He played with the Monarchs in 1946-47, and in 1947 he was also playing with Jackie Robinson when Jackie was called to play for the Brooklyn Dodgers.

He then spent the rest of his baseball career with the semi-pro Omaha Rockets as well as minor league teams of the New York Yankees and Chicago Cubs. He has been interviewed by StoryCorps for a story about his role in the special times and events he lived through which is online in the National Archives. He was a part of the film “The First Boys of Spring” about spring training in Hot Springs, Ariz. for PBS in 2015.



McCrary

He has continued to give back. His truest joy is speaking to young people who want to know about what it was like before the color barrier was broken.

### **Fred Buggs**

Fred Buggs is the former Chief Professional Officer for the Stateline Boys & Girls Club, working for the organization from 2005 to 2014. He previously told the Beloit Daily News he had an interest in the Boys & Girls Club after spending time at the Beloit branch of the club as a youth. He not only held a membership for the Boys and Girls Club through the age of 18, he also worked at the club as a teenager while he attended Beloit College and shortly after graduating from college.

Before working for the Boys & Girls Club, he was the director of Beloit College's Upward Bound and Help Yourself programs.

While in Beloit, he also served as the president of the Black Male Role Model Group and president of the Wisconsin Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel. He was a member of the board of directors for the Mid-America Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel and a faculty member for Council for Opportunity in Education.

Buggs presently is an Education Programs Consultant for the California Department of Education, After School Division. He also worked as a Federal Field Reader for the U.S. Department of Education.

### **Marijuana P. Sawyer**

Marijuana Sawyer serves as the director of the TRIO Student Support Services program in the office of Academic Diversity and Inclusiveness at Beloit College.

TRIO includes the Student Excellence and Leadership, Upward Bound and Help Yourself support programs in an effort to provide students with equitable access to higher education.

She completed her Bachelor's degree in Education at the University of Wisconsin - Whitewater. She earned a master's degree in Higher Education Administration from Georgia Southern University. She is a Ph.D candidate at Cardinal Stritch University studying Educational Leadership with a Higher Education emphasis.

She also is a former advisor, licensed school teacher, and program director.

She is a small business owner providing solutions to home owners who have difficulty selling their houses.

She enjoys reading, camping, and traveling with her son, Isaac, and her dog, Mya.

### **Paul Martin**

Paul Martin attended school in Beloit starting at Merrill School, advancing to Roosevelt, then to

Aldrich Junior High school. While at Aldrich, he helped create the Minority Excellence Organization (MEO).

When Martin and his classmates moved over to Beloit Memorial High School the MEO group followed suit and grew from there. It is still active at the sixth grade level and up throughout the School District of Beloit.

After he graduated from Beloit Memorial High School in 1982, he entered the U.S. Air Force in the fall of that year. He served his country honorably for four years, and then returned home to Beloit. He kept up on his skills by entering the OIC program, working at Frito Lay and Lazer Rentals, and while at Lazer Rentals, he worked his way up to assistant manager. While still working at Lazer Rentals, he applied for a job at the Beloit Fire Department. After successfully completing the testing process, he was offered a position and hired on May 21, 1988. While starting his career as a firefighter, he became more active in the community and has remained so.

### **Tammie King**

Tammie King is the owner of King Consulting Services (KCS), a social justice consulting firm. In 2012, she launched the Ujima Services Advisory Committee and the Parent Consultant Program, and she also is employed with the Children's Hospital Wisconsin overseeing the Exchange Family Resource Centers and community service programs in Rock County.

She is the founding executive director of Hands of Faith in Beloit. She has served in roles aiding family economic self-sufficiency, homeless/subsidized housing, and home-visit based programs, and many community and neighborhood revitalization projects.

King is a member of the Wisconsin Governor's Early Childhood Advisory Council, Families and Community Partnership Team and serves on several local and state committees and boards. She previously served on the Board of Directors for the Badger Council of Girl Scouts, Stateline United Way and the Beloit Life Course Initiative for Healthy African American Families. She is a guest lecturer and has served as co-director of Beloit College's Liberal Arts & Practice Center Summer Series. She was a Wisconsin Mentor Trainer Candidate for Healthy Families America.

Reservations for the luncheon are needed by March 25. Cost is \$25. To make a reservation, call 608-364-4667.