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Austin Green Team Memorialize Six Community Heroes!

(Chicago, Illinois) – On Saturday, May 19, 2018, the Austin Green Team will hold its annual memorial service for six (6) Austin community heroes. The ceremony will take place from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., in the Memorial Garden on the corner of Laramie Ave. and Washington Blvd. The entire community of Austin and nearby neighborhoods is welcome to witness this special occasion.

A brick, with their names inscribed on it, will be placed in the garden for the following Austin community heroes, who are now deceased:

Reverend Elizabeth V. Bynum was the assistant pastor of New Mount Zion Baptist Church. She loved her community and was honored into the Senior Hall of Fame in May 2004 for her dedication to community work. Rev. Bynum also worked for the South Austin Coalition Community council (SACC) as a Chaplain of the National Conference in Washington D.C. Rev. Bynum traveled with SACC organization all over the country, speaking for the voiceless. She was a strong advocate for Senior Rights and made it her mission to impact this world with her Godly spirit and strong voice. She always kept family first and would always sacrifice anything for anyone in need. Rev. Bynum loved the Lord and anyone who knew her know that God was the head of her life. She will especially be remembered as a prayer warrior and a peacemaker. She loved to sing spiritual hymns.

Kenneth “Butch” Campbell dedicated 53 years of his life to being a social activist. He organized with Mayor Harold Washington, Congressman Danny Davis, and Alderman Ed Smith to name a few. After the Million Man March in 1995, Butch created an organization called the Brotherhood of Black Men. After starting that organization, Butch created 100 Men Plus. In 2015, Butch along with fellow community members started the Peacemakers Coalition. Butch touched a lot of people and was very effective at reaching young men. [Austin Coming Together, 4/23/18 Newsletter]

Claudell Ervin served, for over 30 years, as Chicago Police Department, Commander of the 11th District, and the 15th District Youth Officer, including Neighborhood Watch Officer. Commander Ervin was a pioneer for community policing. He was also the representative for other community programs such as baseball league and the beat programs. Commander Ervin made a great impact in the lives of many Austin community residents.



Kamile Kalina, a member of the Austin Green Team, was a long time resident of the Austin Community. She was active in her block club and involved in the activities of the Austin Schock Neighborhood Association (ASNA), serving as President for a term. Ms. Kalina was an advocate for historic building preservation and was involved in ASNA's Annual House Tours, which highlighted the wonderful architecture of the community. She felt that Austin was a great place to live and was filled with people who worked hard to make it a vibrant community.

Mary Peery, founder of the Austin Green Team, served as president for over 25 years, while providing great leadership and guidance to volunteers who worked diligently in beautifying dozens of community gardens. She shared the same vision as other community members and started one of the first community gardens named, "Paradise Garden," located at 650 North Latrobe, Chicago, IL. Mary Peery was a community activist who supported families and children, and had no boundaries to where her efforts would reach. For more than three decades, she served as a faithful member of the Austin Green Team. She spoke with her actions, and stayed committed to the cause. Two of Mrs. Peery's favorite quotes were "The best thing about being involved with the garden is knowing you made a difference...knowing you touched someone." "Some things you do from your heart."

Carol Williams-Hall, served as court advocacy, fighting to make sure that her neighborhood was safe from crime and helping to get the youth off of the streets and involved in constructive activities. As a C.A.P.S. co-facilitator of the 15th District, Beat 1511, she was a true leader heading up initiatives for her local residents. She also served as the block president for many years before recently retiring to work on other community projects. Mrs. Williams-Hall will be remembered for her sternness, yet kindness towards everyone, and for always being there to help someone when needed.

The Austin Green Team is a volunteer organization that builds, maintains, and supports community gardens and community beautification in the Austin neighborhood. For almost thirty years, the Austin Green Team has also managed two green houses located in the Austin Career & Educational Academy High School, propagating and growing plants that help maintain the community gardens that the Austin Green Team oversees. The purpose of the Austin Green Team is to enhance the quality of life issues by working collaboratively with other community stakeholders in beautifying the Austin Community. The Austin Green Team meets every third Thursday evening, at the City of Chicago 15th District Police Department community room. If you would like to volunteer with the Austin Green Team, please contact Tina Augustus, Vice President, at (773) 931-2145 or via email at tinaaugustus@elevateservices.net. You can visit us at www.austingreenteam.org or on Facebook.

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