

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. 21-0332

Honoring Billy Steven Walsh and his 40th anniversary of employment At Windsor Gardens Association

WHEREAS, Tuesday, March 23, 2021, marks the 40th anniversary of employment for Billy Steven Walsh, the longest employment in Windsor Gardens' history, this day will be marked as a historical milestone and celebrated as "Bill Walsh Day" at Windsor Gardens; and

WHEREAS, those who work closely with Billy Steven Walsh know him as "Bill" or "Walsh", the burly, blue-eyed, country-singing cowboy with a red beard and a heart-of-gold, who finds sanctuary deep in the woods with only camping gear, a hunting bow, and wild bears to keep him company; and

WHEREAS, as a Colorado Springs native, Walsh grew up in North Denver hearing about Windsor Gardens, founded in 1962, originally described as "a playground for the young at heart," and home to 3,500 residents as the city's premier active adult living community offering the services and amenities of dining, swimming, golf, art, fitness classes, snow removal, and more; and

WHEREAS, Walsh was first hired at Windsor Gardens in 1981 as an Irrigation Specialist, never expecting to establish a long-term profession in grounds and facilities, spending those early years supporting his family by balancing multiple jobs and taking horticulture classes at night; and

WHEREAS, Walsh was quickly promoted to Groundskeeper Leadman within his first year and ascended to supervisory roles such as Assistant Grounds Supervisor in 1984 and Grounds Supervisor in 1985 with the added responsibilities of Golf Course Superintendent in 1990 and Vehicle Maintenance Supervisor in 2000; and

WHEREAS, Walsh recommended and oversaw the transition from a leased golf course to the association-operated course it is today, the Emerald Greens Golf Club, at the center of the community and holding great esteem with residents, the golfing community and beyond; and

WHEREAS, while serving as Grounds Supervisor, Walsh increased productivity while minimizing labor costs, implemented new technology and equipment, and created knowledgeable solutions for fertilization and watering, reducing his team's mowing time by 50%; and

WHEREAS, Walsh was promoted to his current role as Facilities Manager in 2006, overseeing 50+ staff members and the continuous daily maintenance needs of 72 buildings and 2,690 condominium units as well as the community center, auditorium, indoor and outdoor pools, administrative and community response offices, restaurant, golf course, nature area, warehouse and other work areas, vehicles and equipment, which span nearly 160 acres and make Windsor Gardens the largest age-restricted condominium community in the Denver area; and

WHEREAS, for the past 15 years, Walsh successfully managed all day-to-day maintenance activities of a community the size of a small town, working with his team to complete thousands of work orders each year, addressing the inevitable emergencies that occur, and continuing routine maintenance to the miles of roof, gutter, pipeline, asphalt, concrete and more that exist at Windsor Gardens; and

WHEREAS, as Facilities Manager, Walsh leads multiple capital improvement projects each year, overseeing hundreds of contractors, tens of thousands of staff hours, and millions of budgeted dollars in order to extend the life of the community, protect property values, and improve everyday living for residents; and

WHEREAS, unrelated to his responsibilities as the Facilities Manager, Walsh played an integral role in the creation and development of the Premier Concert Series at Windsor Gardens, taking great pride in scouting talent and spending his limited personal time managing the production of lights and sound, bringing the caliber of entertainment for the community to a new level; and

WHEREAS, Walsh's commitment to the residents of Windsor Gardens runs deep, exemplified in heroic acts such as when he sits silently at the controllers of a broken-down boiler overnight to ensure that the residents of the building have heat in a bad storm and when he selflessly runs into buildings experiencing a fire or major flooding to help safely evacuate the affected residents and secure the building and residents' personal belongings; and

WHEREAS, Walsh has collaborated and worked side-by-side with hundreds of board members, committee members, and building representatives over the years to share his historical knowledge and unmatched expertise of the community's grounds and facilities, earning him the respect and trust of the community's volunteer leadership; and

WHEREAS, there is no greater leader than one who can lead by example, thus Walsh's exceptional integrity and dedication has created a family-like culture of cooperation and longevity within the departments he manages, where many employees achieve over 10 years of employment and several reach 20 years or more; and

WHEREAS, Walsh is an old-school facilities manager who believes in working hard every day, saving money whenever possible, thinking outside of the box, and repairing before replacing because new is not always better; and

WHEREAS, Walsh has an unparalleled work ethic, is painfully fair, and always, always has the best interest of the community in mind; and

WHEREAS, the Windsor Gardens Association extends their heartfelt appreciation to Billy Steven Walsh for his significant contributions to the community and are honored to be beneficiaries and witnesses of his successful and longstanding career.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:

Section 1. That the Council of the City and County of Denver honors the service of Billy Steven Walsh for his 40 years of service to the Windsor Gardens Community.

Section 2. That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be transmitted to Billy Steven Walsh.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL March 22, 2021

PRESIDENT