



# BLACK CAUCUS OF HEALTH WORKERS

Post Office Box 42784 / Evergreen Park, Illinois 60805-0784

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[BCHWinfo1968@gmail.com](mailto:BCHWinfo1968@gmail.com) / [www.blackcaucus1968.blogspot.com](http://www.blackcaucus1968.blogspot.com)

May 1, 2020

Dear BCHW members, Public Health Colleagues and Friends,

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of one of our fore-fathers' and founders of the Black Caucus of Health Workers, Dr. Bailus Walker. We would like to take this time to recognize his contributions to BCHW and the world.

We are planning several tributes to Dr. Walker and we ask that if you would like to send pictures, comments, or have photos of memorabilia, please send it to [BCHWinfo1968@gmail.com](mailto:BCHWinfo1968@gmail.com) with the subject heading "Dr. Bailus Walker Tribute". This information will be shared on our website: [aphabchw.com](http://aphabchw.com) and our other social media pages.

As I did not have the pleasure of meeting Dr. Walker, I thought it more appropriate that someone who worked with him be able to honor his memory. The following message is from our Immediate Past President, Dr. Barbara Norman.

Sincerely,

Alfreda Holloway-Beth, PhD, MS

President

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## Legacy of Dr. Bailus Walker



### **My Dear BCHW Members, Colleagues, Friends and Supporters**

On behalf of the American Public Health Association (APHA) Black Caucus of Health Workers (BCHW), it is with deep sadness I extend sincere condolences to the family, friends and many mentees of Dr. Bailus Walker. He was a national icon in the field of public health. A gentle man, energetic with a sense of humor, medium in stature, yet, larger than life in academia, research and practice.

Dr. Walker was an incredible friend with an enormous heart. I met him in 1968 while attending my first APHA annual meeting in Detroit, Michigan. The focus was on smoking prevention and cessation. Although important at the time, Dr. Walker, along with other concerned black members of the APHA called upon the leadership to address the urban health crises. This historic meeting became the foundation of the BCHW and the first caucus of the APHA.

A graduate of Kentucky University with a Bachelor of Science in biology and chemistry, Dr. Walker received both a Master of Public Health and Ph.D. degrees in occupational and environmental health from the University of Michigan.

Dr. Walker served as the Dean of the College of Public Health at the University of Oklahoma, Professor of Public Health Policy at the State University of New York at Albany, Professor of Environmental/Occupational Medicine and Toxicology at Howard University College of Medicine taught at the Harvard School of Public Health and University of Michigan and was the former Director of the U. S. Department of Labor. He was the first non-physician appointed Commissioner of Public Health in Massachusetts, the chairman of the Massachusetts State Board

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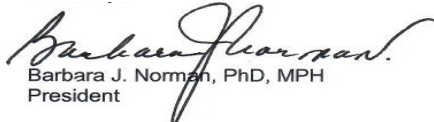
of Health, and the Michigan State Director of Public Health. He was the former Director of the Occupational Health Standards Directorate of the U. S. Department of Labor where he developed the nation's first policy on the identification and communication of hazardous substance information in the workplace. Additionally, Dr. Walker in 1985, played a pivotal role in establishing the Office of Minority Health, the precursor to the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health (USDHHS/OMH). He is a member of the Institute of Medicine and the National Academy of Sciences.

As an alumnus of the University of Michigan School of Public Health, Dr. Walker was especially instrumental assisting us in successfully navigating the school's program. His awards include, but certainly not limited to: the University of Michigan School of Public Health Distinguished Alumni Award, the Environmental Health Services Award, the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) Health Legislative Service Award, and the Browning Prize for Disease Prevention for his research in reducing the risk of environmentally-provoked diseases in U.S. urban areas. He was the recipient of two distinguished fellowships from the Royal Society of Health including the American College of Epidemiology. He is also the author of "Occupational Health Problems Faced by Minority Workers."

Dr. Walker embodied the mission of the BCHW throughout his career. He became president of the APHA and the recipient of the BCHW highly esteemed Hildrus A. Poindexter Service Award. He continued to be an advisor to the BCHW for many years. He was invited to be the 2018 keynote speaker for the BCHW 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Disappointed he was unable to attend, Bailus looked forward to preparing a video highlighting the history of BCHW to be presented at the 2019 celebration.

Dr. Walker was highly respected, intellectually gifted and very accomplished in public health. The trajectory of his life distinguishes him from his personal awards but rather by the service he provided to others. The BCHW, its' colleagues and friends, are keeping the Walker family in our thoughts and prayers as we say farewell to this distinguished gentleman of our collective hearts. His wisdom, compassion and altruistic personality will be sorely missed.

Respectfully Submitted,



Barbara J. Norman, PhD, MPH  
President

Dr. Barbara J. Norman, BCHW  
Immediate Past President  
Ph.D., MPH, MSPS, MSN  
Former Captain, U. S. Army  
Viet Nam Era