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Seattle's South Oregon Street to be Renamed "Bill Burton Way" in Honor of Community Hero

SEATTLE, Washington — Following celebrations of Martin Luther King Jr., members of Seattle's Rainier Vista community will gather to commemorate community leader Bill Burton, who will now have a street named in his honor following a unanimous Seattle City Council vote.

During a meeting on November 15, S. Oregon St. was [officially designated](#) to be renamed "Bill Burton Way." In coordination with the new street sign's installation, all members of the public are invited to celebrate the renaming from 12:30-1:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 20.

The event is set to begin outside the Rainier Vista Boys & Girls Club located at 4520 Martin Luther King Jr. Way S., where attendees can view the new "Bill Burton Wy" street sign. Yet the celebrations aren't only to recognize the street's new name: the Club's basketball court will officially be named "Bill Burton Court," where the remainder of the program will conclude with bleacher seating to accommodate for weather and comfort.

Alongside testimonials from Bill's family, friends, and mentees, King County Executive Dow Constantine, and King County Council members Rod Dembowski and Girmay Zahilay will be making remarks during the program. Light refreshments will also be provided.

William 'Bill' Burton started his career at the King County Boys & Girls Club in 1979. He later became the Area Director for the Rainier Vista Boys & Girls Club and sought to provide a welcoming space for youth in what was once a neglected building. Over the span of more than 20 years, he worked tirelessly to redevelop the building into a world class \$24 million facility. The project was Bill's gift to the community he grew up in and the Rainier Vista Club has become a pillar of the neighborhood that is second to none locally.

"It's more than just a club." Nate Miles, an active board member of the Rainier Vista Boys & Girls Club, said. "Bill Burton has made that place a safe haven."

Bill empowered youth by inspiring them to thrive and demonstrated a fierce determination to see them build confidence and successfully grow in all aspects of life. Now, more than 100 youth visit the Rainier Vista Club daily and participate in a variety of nationally recognized programs.

"Years from now... when someone drives down the street and says 'who is Bill Burton?' Kids will say 'That's Uncle Bill,'" Miles said. "'That's Bill Burton, the guy who made sure we had this building.'"

Bill's impact on the lives of youth encouraged them to live out their passions and reach for the impossible. After dedicating his life to creating a positive difference in the Rainier Vista community, the renaming of S. Oregon St. to Bill Burton Way and the Club's basketball court to Bill Burton Court are undoubtedly deserved.

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