

Letter to the Editor - Remembering Bill Bowen

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To the Editor:

I am writing today to pay tribute to an exceptional man, the late William T. Bowen of Prince Frederick, MD, who passed on June 28, 2015.

William "Bill" Bowen was a man of integrity and leadership, whose steadfast commitment to service in our community deserves our recognition and sincere appreciation. In addition to his achievements in business, his elected service as county commissioner, his volunteer work with the Board of Education and the resulting development of the Calvert County Career Center, his service to our country through the Army Reserves and his leadership at the Tri-County Council and on the board of the Calvert County Chamber of Commerce, Bill played an integral role in the development and growth of Calvert Memorial Hospital during my tenure as president and CEO of Calvert Health System.

Bill served on our health system board of directors for nine of the years when I was CEO and we had an opportunity to come to know each other well. Over those nine years, he demonstrated his commitment to our community's health, spending hundreds of hours of his personal time supporting the efforts of our health system leaders, always striving to ensure top quality health care was available to the residents of Calvert County. He was instrumental in the expansion of the hospital that added a new surgery center with six state-of-the-art operating suites, expanded and renovated the family birth center and created the KeepWell Center at Calvert Memorial Hospital. The KeepWell Center, which provides wellness classes and fitness programs for the community, was a truly innovative idea at the time and created a strong foundation for the today's expansive wellness and outreach program.

He also played a role in the development of the health system's Urgent Care Centers in Dunkirk and Solomons, a strategy which put healthcare services within 15 minutes of every county resident. Today those Urgent Care Centers provide care for more than 18,000 patient visits each year. He participated in the formation of the Calvert Healthcare Roundtable, the opening of the Transitional Care Unit, and the creation of an onsite daycare center at the hospital among other projects.

My personal experience of working alongside Bill is one I will always treasure. As a dedicated member of our health system board, I could always count on him for sound guidance and encouragement. His vision and passion for Calvert County was inspiring and he never ran short on great ideas for how to make good programs even better. His warm smile, hearty handshake and good natured enthusiasm for our community will be greatly missed.

I am grateful I had the opportunity to learn from Bill's leadership and I sincerely thank his wife Betty and his family for sharing him with our community. His impact on Calvert County will be long remembered with affection and appreciation.

Sincerely,

James J. Xinis

Former President and CEO of Calvert Health System

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