NORTH CAROLINA MUSEUM OF HISTORY FOUNDATION

Nov. 20, 2018 (RALEIGH, N.C.) — The North Carolina Museum of History Foundation announced the recipients of its 2018 Philanthropy Awards during an October 23 event at the Carolina Country Club in Raleigh. The awards recognize individuals and organizations for outstanding contributions to the preservation, study or understanding of North Carolina history.

**Leadership, Education, Service, and Support**
Qualities honored by this award include providing visionary leadership in promoting the study and understanding of history of North Carolina; deepening the understanding of, and appreciation for, the history of our State through excellence in writing and scholarship; and providing exceptional commitment, service, and support to one or more history museums, historic sites, or other repositories of the history of our State.

Awards went to BlueCross and BlueShield of North Carolina (Blue Cross NC) and CEO Emeritus J. Bradley Wilson, Ann Baggett Goodnight and Dr. James Howard Goodnight, and Betty Ray McCain.

“The Foundation established these awards to show our appreciation of business partners and individuals who have made a difference to the Museum of History in significant and meaningful ways,” said Victor E. Bell, Chairman of the Museum of History Foundation. “Our 2018 award recipients truly exemplify some of the state’s finest representation of business and citizens who care about and share in preserving the rich history of the Old North State.”

**Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina (Blue Cross NC)**

Through their commitment to community cultural vitality, Blue Cross NC has developed a long and beneficial relationship with the North Carolina Museum of History. The company’s generosity helped to create the award-winning exhibit, *Health and Healing Experiences in North Carolina*, which showed that we can all overcome vast public health challenges by working together. Most recently, Blue Cross NC supported a reinterpretation of the museum’s popular 1920s pharmacy installation, an environment that features original fixtures from the former J.C. Brantley Drugstore in downtown Raleigh.
“The museum continues to benefit from Blue Cross NC’s generous gifts to the endowment and the capital campaign, as well as to numerous educational programs and community celebrations,” said Ken Howard, NC Museum of History Director. “Among these are the museum’s annual American Indian Heritage Celebration and African American Cultural Celebration, our live-streaming program series (LIVE!), and the NC Museum of History Foundation’s Distinguished Lecture Series. Together these programs have served tens of thousands of North Carolinians across the state.”

James Bradley Wilson

Throughout his educational and professional careers, J. Bradley Wilson, CEO Emeritus of BlueCross and BlueShield of North Carolina, has deployed his time, talents, and resources for the betterment of his community and state, including the NC Museum of History. As a practicing attorney, as general counsel to Governor James B. Hunt, and during his 22-year career at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of NC (Blue Cross NC), Wilson exemplified the principle of servant leadership.

“Under Wilson’s leadership, Blue Cross NC expanded and strengthened its charitable relationship with the NC Museum of History,” said Howard. “Not only did Blue Cross NC strongly support the museum’s endowment and capital campaigns, but they played a critical role in the development of numerous exhibits and educational programs in the museum. This active corporate engagement is indicative of Wilson’s love of history and understanding of the important role the museum plays in preserving and telling the North Carolina story.”

Ann Baggett Goodnight and Dr. James Howard Goodnight

As visionary leaders, educational advocates, and art supporters, it’s impossible to overstate Ann Baggett Goodnight and Dr. James Howard Goodnight’s philanthropic impact on North Carolina. The Goodnight’s generosity and leadership have greatly benefited the N.C. Museum of History. In addition to their contributions to the Museum’s endowment, the Goodnights have focused their support for the Museum on exhibits and programs with strong educational components, such as History in Every Direction: Tar Hell Junior Association Discovery Gallery. The Goodnights have also been instrumental in developing the NC Museum of History Foundation’s Distinguished Lecture Series.

“For nearly three decades, Ann and Jim Goodnight have made a tangible difference in the lives of North Carolinians—especially children—with their passion for education, support for arts and culture, and a deep resonance to create a better community,” said Howard. “Together they have built a legacy that will benefit residents of the Old North State for generations to come.”

Betty Ray McCain
Betty Ray McCain has been called upon frequently to serve the people of North Carolina, most notably as secretary of North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources (NCDCR) under Governor Jim Hunt—and she’s always answered those calls with her effortless charm, subtle wit, and keen intelligence. During her tenure as secretary at NCDCR, McCain worked tirelessly to raise the department’s profile. One of her major accomplishments was securing the site and overseeing the building of the current North Carolina Museum of History. As former president of the North Carolina Museum of History Associates (MOHA), McCain was determined that the state have a dedicated location for its history museum.

“Betty Ray McCain is fond of the saying ‘You bloom where your flowers are planted.’ We are exceedingly fortunate that she was planted here for the benefit of all North Carolinians,” said Howard. “A member of the North Carolina Museum of History Foundation board since 2008, her tremendous passion for history and her political acumen have proven to be a driving force in the Foundation’s efforts to promote North Carolina History.”

The 2018 Philanthropy Awards, chaired by Mr. and Mrs. W. Dunlop White and Mr. and Mrs. G. Alfred Webster, were presented during an elegant evening at the Carolina Country Club. WRAL-TV’s David Crabtree served as Master of Ceremonies, and Dr. W. Randolph Woodson, chancellor at North Carolina State University, was the evening’s Keynote Speaker. Frank B. Holding Jr., chairman and CEO of First Citizens Bank offered sponsor remarks. Multi-media elements included a video tribute to each award honoree, as well as a video message from Governor Roy A. Cooper III.

First Citizens Wealth Management was the corporate sponsor of the Philanthropy Awards, with additional support from Bailey’s Fine Jewelry, CE Rentals, Kelly Odom Flowers and Interiors, the North Carolina Museum of History, MOHA (the North Carolina Museum of History Associates), The Museum Shop, and The Special Events Company.

IMAGES available here

About the N.C. Museum of History Foundation
The N.C. Museum of History Foundation, Inc. was established in 2004 as a 501(c)(3) organization to raise funds that enable the Division of State History Museums (an agency of the Office of Archives and History, N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources) to lead the state in preserving and interpreting the history and culture of the Tar Heel State.

The Foundation collects and distributes funds for ongoing efforts related to exhibitions, educational programming, artifact acquisition, and object conservation. The Foundation also supports needed capital improvements and directs funds toward building an endowment for future generations.

About the N.C. Museum of History, a Smithsonian affiliate
The N.C. Museum of History is located at 5 E. Edenton Street in downtown Raleigh. Hours are Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. The museum collects and preserves artifacts of North Carolina history and educates the public on the history of the state and the nation through exhibits and educational programs. Each year more than 400,000 people visit the museum to see some of the 150,000 artifacts in the museum collection. The Museum of History, within the Division of State History Museums, is part of the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.
For information about the N.C. Museum of History, call 919-814-7000 or access nc museum of history org or follow on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Google+ or YouTube.

About the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
The N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (NCDNCR) is the state agency with a vision to be the leader in using the state’s natural and cultural resources to build the social, cultural, educational and economic future of North Carolina. NCDNCR’s mission is to improve the quality of life in our state by creating opportunities to experience excellence in the arts, history, libraries and nature in North Carolina by stimulating learning, inspiring creativity, preserving the state’s history, conserving the state’s natural heritage, encouraging recreation and cultural tourism, and promoting economic development.

NCDNCR includes 27 historic sites, seven history museums, two art museums, two science museums, three aquariums and Jennette’s Pier, 39 state parks and recreation areas, the N.C. Zoo, the nation’s first state-supported Symphony Orchestra, the State Library, the State Archives, the N.C. Arts Council, State Preservation Office and the Office of State Archaeology, along with the Division of Land and Water Stewardship. For more information, please call 919-807-7300 or visit www.ncder.gov.

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