



THE CITY OF BRUNSWICK MARYLAND

1 WEST POTOMAC STREET · BRUNSWICK, MARYLAND 21716 · (301) 834-7500

Distinguished Citizens biography for:

Richard B. Weldon, Jr.

b. 1958

Honored as a Distinguished Citizen in 2025

Brunswick helped put Richard (Rick) Weldon on the path to an illustrious career in public service, and on every step of that journey—from City Hall downtown to Winchester Hall in Frederick and the statehouse in Annapolis—Rick has given back to Brunswick.

Richard Bancroft Weldon, Jr. was born to Fay Weldon and Richard Bancroft Weldon, Sr. and raised in a then-rural area of New Castle County, Delaware. There he attended William Penn High School, whose claim to fame was a main hallway a mile long and a graduating class of 900. Rick graduated in 1976 and promptly enlisted in the Navy—as he tells it, to get away from New Castle County and because he knew that if he had gone to college first, he would have “majored in something other than academics.”

Looking back, Rick considers joining the Navy to have been the best choice he ever made aside from marrying his wife, Amy. He performed well on the military’s ASVAB aptitude test and chose to become a submariner, which brought him aboard the nuclear ballistic missile submarine (“boomer”) USS Stonewall Jackson in the North Atlantic. Long missions deep under the ocean taught him to become a communicator, a problem solver, and a thinker in a way few other jobs could have.

A full career as a sailor wasn’t Rick’s calling, but he intended to continue assisting the service as a civilian. After a couple years as a defense contractor, in 1982 Rick became a federal employee managing the rollout of various systems for the Navy. He moved to Brunswick, where he could commute to his job in Crystal City, VA. It seemed to him like he had his career path figured out.

But Rick’s career was not destined to be so simple. The Cold War ended, and then the Pentagon began downsizing during the Clinton administration. In 1994, Rick received a letter from the federal government’s Office of Personnel Management that he paraphrased as saying, “You better take a buyout.” Rick heeded that advice. Then, he had to figure out what to do next.

It so happened that Rick had been assigned a paper for a course he was taking at the University of Maryland, in which he had to propose solutions to a real-world problem. He figured nobody in





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the federal government was interested in a graduate paper, so he chose his topic closer to home: downtown revitalization in Brunswick, a critical issue at a time when only a few storefronts were occupied on Potomac Street. Rick interviewed Mayor Dick Goodrich and a few councilmembers for the paper and mailed his finished copy to them. Soon after, he was in a hotel in Florida when he got a call from Mayor Goodrich asking if he was interested in a job. Brunswick needed a City Administrator, and the Mayor & Council were impressed with Rick's paper. He hurried home, did an interview with the City Council, and emerged with a new career in local public service.

Rick recalls his time as City Administrator as one of the most rewarding jobs in his life with its focus on solving practical problems, including the relocation of City Hall from 20 East A Street to where it is now. He worked for five years to help Brunswick through its post-railyard slump to its 21st century future. In 1999, Rick took a job as Chief Operating Officer for Frederick City, and in 2001 he was appointed to fill a vacancy on Frederick County's Board of Commissioners.

At that point, Rick concluded that the most effective way to help the local governments he had served was to influence policy at the state level. He ran for the House of Delegates and was elected to two terms representing southern Frederick County and southeast Washington County. His proudest accomplishments were sponsoring the Relative Care Act of 2004, which gave relatives the first right to guardianship of a child who would otherwise go into foster care, and the Working Families Act of 2006, which expanded subsidized healthcare to more than 250,000 Marylanders. He was touched when Governor Martin O'Malley, a Democrat, reached out personally to him, a Republican at the time, to ask him to help draft the Working Families Act.

After leaving the House of Delegates, Rick worked briefly again in Frederick before beginning a second stint as Brunswick's City Administrator in 2010 alongside Mayor Carroll Jones. He loved the job as much as he had before, but he stepped down after Brunswick's 2012 election to make way for an administrator better aligned with the new mayor. By then, Rick was a board member of the Frederick County Chamber of Commerce and was asked by then-CEO Ric Adams to become the Member Relations Manager. Over the next few years, Rick moved up the ranks in the Chamber before becoming President and CEO, a role he continues to fulfill today.

One of the lessons Rick learned as a state legislator was to learn as much about his opponents' position on an issue as he knew about his own—something which not only helped him make a stronger case for his side, but could also lead him to see the merit in the other side's argument and change his mind. That ability to work across the aisle continues to serve him well in his work advocating for Frederick County's business community. He enjoys living in Brunswick, watching the city's progress and helping it along where he can.

Rick and Amy Weldon have three children—Morgan, Cassie, and Rick—and six grandsons. The youngest, one-year-old Richard Bancroft Weldon IV, lives right down the street; a joy to his grandparents and a living testament to Rick's long-term dedication to his family and his town.

The Mayor and Council and the Brunswick History Commission are proud to honor Rick Weldon as a Distinguished Citizen of Brunswick, Maryland.