

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND
Legislative Session 2016, Legislative Day No. 9

Resolution No. 54-16

Mr. Wade Kach, Councilman

By the County Council, May 2, 2016

A RESOLUTION of the Baltimore County Council requesting the United States Board on Geographic Names to approve the renaming of a portion of the Baisman Run in Oregon Ridge Park to be the Wolman Run.

WHEREAS, M. Gordon “Reds” Wolman, who died in February, 2010 at the age of 85, was not only a World War II veteran and an all-American lacrosse player at The Johns Hopkins University, but he was also a pioneer in the modern direction of water resources and hydrology, beginning in the 1960s; and

WHEREAS, Reds Wolman worked for 52 years at The Johns Hopkins University, chairing two departments for more than 30 years, serving twice as interim provost, and teaching a course in geomorphology every year for 50 years; and

WHEREAS, there is a special connection between Reds’ distinguished career and the Baisman Run, a stream, in Oregon Ridge Park; and

WHEREAS, in 1987, Reds published the seminal paper on the Baisman Run drainage basin, titled “Sediment Movement and Knickpoint Behavior in a Small Piedmont Drainage Basin”; and

WHEREAS, Reds conducted research and led field trips to this watershed every year for decades; and

WHEREAS, during his career, Reds played a central role in defining a modern, quantitative, and generalizable framework that provided the foundation of modern river geomorphology, engineering, and restoration; and

WHEREAS, research on fundamental problems in watershed hydrology continues to be carried out in the Baisman Run watershed by faculty and students at Johns Hopkins, and additional research on the connection between landscape management, water quality and ecological integrity in regional streams draining into the Chesapeake Bay continues there as well; and

WHEREAS, the Baltimore County Council believes that the County should recognize the contribution of this distinguished scholar who played a central role in defining modern understanding of rivers, a visionary academic who pioneered integrated environmental education, a devoted citizen who worked tirelessly to apply an understanding of rivers to their protection and wise use, and an extraordinary human being who inspired and delighted generations of students and colleagues, all friends; and

WHEREAS, the Baltimore County Council believes that it is appropriate to rename that portion of the Baisman Run above its confluence with Pond Branch to be the Wolman Run; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND, that the United States Board on Geographic Names is requested to approve the renaming of the portion of the Baisman Run, in Oregon Ridge Park, above its confluence with Pond Branch to be the Wolman Run, as depicted on the map attached hereto.