

## **Gilchrist Staff Win 2020 Health Care Heroes Awards from *The Daily Record***

**Hunt Valley, Md., May 19, 2020**

*The Daily Record* selected two Gilchrist professionals to receive 2020 Health Care Heroes Awards. The awards recognize excellence, innovation and service in the health care industry and honor individuals who have made an impact on the quality of health care within Maryland. The winners were selected by an outside panel of health care experts.

Gilchrist medical director W. Anthony Riley, MD, won the *Lifetime Achievement* award, an honor that recognizes individuals in the health care community whose body of work in their careers makes them stand out from their peers. Beverly Ruiz, MS, CRNP, Gilchrist Elder Medical Care at Home nurse practitioner, received the *Nurse Practitioner of the Year* award, which honors nurse practitioners whose job performance is considered exemplary by patients and peers.

“The 2020 Health Care Heroes go above and beyond to meet the needs of the community through innovative thinking and creative ideas. Their work to keep us healthy and well truly makes them heroes,” said Suzanne Fischer-Huettner, publisher of *The Daily Record*. “Their high professional achievement, community involvement and dedication to excellence contribute to Maryland being a national leader in health care. *The Daily Record* is honored to recognize their accomplishments.”

### **W. Anthony Riley, MD – Winner of the *Lifetime Achievement* Award**

As a leading expert in the field of geriatrics, hospice and palliative care, Dr. Riley has dedicated his professional life to caring for the elderly, those suffering from serious illness and those at the end of life. His contributions have resulted in more comprehensive and coordinated high-quality care for more seniors with serious illness, particularly for underserved populations. Under his medical leadership, Gilchrist and GBMC have provided a seamless continuum of care that allows physicians to follow elderly patients throughout the medical system, from the hospital and medical offices to home-based care and eventually palliative and hospice care.

Dr. Riley has helped create programs and services at Gilchrist that have grown the geriatrics, palliative medicine and hospice programs into one of the region’s most esteemed services. He has developed many innovative programs to help close the gap in care for populations whose needs were previously unmet. He provides medical leadership to a practice of over 50 physicians and nurse practitioners providing geriatric, palliative medicine, hospice, and medical director services in homes, residential care communities, offices, and hospitals in the Baltimore region.

## **Beverly Ruiz, MS, CRNP – Winner of the *Nurse Practitioner of the Year Award***

As the team lead nurse practitioner of the Gilchrist Elder Medical Care at Home program, Beverly has helped grow the practice over the last five years to become one of the largest home medical-based programs in the area. The program provides vital medical care and support to geriatric patients who have difficulty getting out of their home for medical appointments. Beverly delivers care with the utmost kindness and compassion and develops warm and caring relationships with those she serves. Many patients have expressed their gratitude for Beverly's care and note that she truly goes above and beyond her job responsibilities, such as collecting and delivering food to needy patients. She is well-known for her compassion, her advocacy and her dedication to caring for patients even when they need help beyond the scope of her work.

"Both Dr. Riley and Beverly Ruiz are leaders in their fields and exemplify Gilchrist's tireless commitment to meeting the needs of the seriously ill and elderly in our community," said Catherine Hamel, president of Gilchrist. "Their innovative thinking, dedication to patients, and professional excellence make them Health Care Heroes, and their extraordinary efforts have never been more evident than in the current crisis."

The 2020 Health Care Heroes Awards will be presented at a June 25 online event at [TheDailyRecord.com/health-care-heroes](https://TheDailyRecord.com/health-care-heroes). Each of the winners will be celebrated for their achievements through video storytelling. Gilchrist, along with other winners, will be profiled in the June 26 issue of The Daily Record and will be available online at [www.TheDailyRecord.com](http://www.TheDailyRecord.com).

### **ABOUT GILCHRIST**

Gilchrist is a nationally recognized nonprofit leader in serious illness and end-of-life care. With elder medical care, counseling and hospice, we help people at every stage of serious illness live life to the fullest and make informed choices about their care. Since 1994, the organization has served thousands of individuals throughout Central Maryland—in homes, in skilled nursing and residential care communities, and at our three inpatient hospice centers in Towson, Howard County and Baltimore. Gilchrist is accredited by CHAP (Community Health Accreditation Partner), and is a recipient of the prestigious Circle of Life award from the American Hospital Association. For more information about Gilchrist, visit [gilchristcares.org](http://gilchristcares.org).

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