

HONORING ALMA MATILDA WALTERS ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Alma Matilda Walters on the occasion of her 100th birthday, which will take place next week on February 22nd.

Mrs. Walters was born on February 22, 1903, in Palmetto Point, St. Kitts, British West Indies. She immigrated to the United States in her early teens and like so many immigrants of that era, she entered the U.S. through Ellis Island. Mrs. Walters eventually settled in Jersey City, New Jersey, married and raised her first five children (Delores, Irene, Marjorie, Florence and John) there. Her first marriage ended in divorce and she was forced to raise her children as "a single mother" well before the phrase became a part of today's popular culture. Mrs. Walters did so while working as a church assistant and domestic worker to the Lerner family, the owners of the Lerner clothing store chain.

Mrs. Walters worked as a nurse's aide at Community Hospital in Brooklyn's Flatbush neighborhood for many years. She was an active member of Local 1199 and participated in union activities during her working years as well as after her retirement in 1977. She was also an active member of the Miller Avenue Block Association and a life-long Democrat.

Later in life, she met and married M/Sgt. Ulysses Walters. The Walters traveled throughout the United States and lived in Texas, Oklahoma and Georgia before returning to Brooklyn, New York in 1963. Together, they adopted a son, Frank Edward. Mrs. Walters' husband, Ulysses, died in 1975.

Mrs. Walters resided at 399 Miller Avenue in the East New York section of Brooklyn from 1964 until the spring of 2000 when she suffered a hip fracture and needed extensive nursing care. She is currently residing at the Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center in Brooklyn, New York.

Mrs. Alma Matilda Walters currently has 96 direct descendants who are alive. This number includes six generations. She is an outstanding example of a woman who came to America to improve her own life and contributed in many ways to the success of her family, children and community. She struggled and endured during some of the most difficult times in our history. Although she only had the equivalent of an eighth grade education, she always inspired each of her children to be the best at whatever they chose to do in life.

I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the lifetime achievements of this remarkable woman, Mrs. Alma Matilda Walters, as she celebrates her 100th birthday on February 22, 2003.

CALVERT TROJANS WIN 2002 TEXAS BOWL; SIX-MAN FOOTBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2003

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, congratulations to the 2002 Calvert High School Trojan

six-man football team upon winning Calvert's first Texas State football title in school history!

Team members Herbert Kinney, Darius Smith, Chris Ford, Greg Ford, Sammy Wells, Deuantay Green, Torre Grimes, Joske Bowen, Tijon Green, Brandon Stewart, Brian Ford, Randall Green, Jay Green, Lionel Melton, James Ashley, Tranquille Kinney, Corey Gibson, Mario Smith, and Dekessler Ford provided a natural well spring of notable Calvert championship athletic talent, the likes of which has not been seen since National Baseball Hall of Fame inductees and half-brothers Rube and Bill Foster.

Head Coach and Trojan alumnus Coylin Grimes provided the unflappable leadership and football know-how necessary to mold this outstanding group of players into an unstoppable force and an unbeaten team (14-0). Upon realizing his team's championship ambitions last December way out in San Angelo, Coach Grimes remarked, "This feels great. The kids deserved it; the city of Calvert deserved it. It's just a great time to be a Calvert Trojan fan." You did it, Coach, and we're all proud of you and your work in guiding this outstanding group of young and talented athletes towards achieving their highest goals for the 2002 football season. The lessons of determination, concentration, and dedication, along with the rewards attending these lessons will not be forgotten, and will be shared by every Trojan athlete and scholar for all time. We also congratulate assistant coach Randy Boley, team managers Kiemon Council, Kasey Burnett, and Javion Council, whose dedication to the success of the 2002 Trojan six-man football team should also be honored.

The Trojans scored all 51 of their points in the final half of 2002 championship play, stunning the Sanderson Eagles who went into the locker room at the half up 32-0. The 4,000 football fans on hand at San Angelo's Bobcat Stadium were treated to a 50-yard score on the Trojan's final possession of the game by playmaker Darius Smith. Darius, who finished the game with 206 yards rushing, 88 yards receiving, and five touchdowns, caught a short pass on a flare route, broke two tackles, and took the ball over the goal line with less than a minute remaining in regulation to bring the Championship home to Calvert, 51-46. Congratulations to the Calvert High School football team and to their fans, friends and families in Calvert, Texas and throughout the country!

HONORING MEDAL OF VALOR RECIPIENTS: SERGEANT JOE PEDROZA, DEPUTY MATTHEW LUTHER, DEPUTY OSCAR LEON, DEPUTY PHILLIP FARLEY, OFFICER TERESA NAUGLE-DUDEK AND OFFICER ERNIE SANCHEZ

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2003

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to honor the courageous efforts of the men and women in law enforcement. These individuals risk their lives each day in fighting crime and keeping our communities safe. Tonight, I honor four brave members of the Monterey County Sheriff's Department and two members of the Salinas Police Department that

have been awarded a Medal of Valor by the Monterey County Peace Officer's Association for their dedicated service to the County of Monterey.

On December 29, 2001, Monterey County Sheriff's Deputies responded to a call about a suspicious vehicle that may have been involved in the sale of stolen property. Deputy Matthew Luther determined the vehicle was stolen and also realized that it was parked at a residence where known felons took refuge.

Additional units arrived and surrounded the location: Deputy Luther and Deputy Phillip Farley covered the rear of the home, while Deputy Oscar Leon covered the front. Sergeant Joe Pedroza took the exterior perimeter.

A suspect's desperate efforts to flee were thwarted by Deputy Farley. Trying another exit, the suspect encountered Deputy Leon and began shooting. Deputy Leon returned fire at almost point blank range. Shortly thereafter, the suspect attempted to escape by jumping off the front porch of the residence and tried to climb into a tree above Deputy Luther. The suspect, still in possession of his handgun was disabled by Deputy Luther's return fire. After securing the suspect, two additional co-conspirators were located inside the house and taken into custody.

Throughout this quick encounter, each deputy employed his skills, training, and instincts—all of which culminated in the securing of the suspect and the crime scene. The encounter was not over after the suspect was shot and disabled. All the deputies involved maintained their focus, worked in unison and continued to react to each threat as it arose. The above Sheriff's Deputies were confronted with a life and death situation in which, a murder suspect attempted to gain his freedom by shooting his gun at them. In doing so, they were able to apprehend the suspect without injuries to the deputies involved.

Sergeant Joe Pedroza, Deputy Matthew Luther, Deputy Oscar Leon, and Deputy Phillip Farley were awarded this Medal of Valor on April 17, 2002.

On the evening of January 15, 2002, the Salinas Fire Department and the Salinas Police Department were dispatched to a structure fire at the Acosta Plaza apartment complex.

Officer Ernie Sanchez and Officer Teresa Naugle-Dudek arrived before any fire units and determined that the occupants of apartment #2, which was fully engulfed, were safe and accounted for. In speaking with the residents, the two officers learned that the occupants of apartment #1 had not been seen outside.

When Officer Sanchez knocked on the door and got no response, he forced the locked door. When Officer Sanchez and Officer Naugle-Dudek entered the premises, they found the apartment full of thick, dark smoke. Without breathing apparatus or concern for their personal safety, they located three individuals asleep in an upstairs bedroom. Officer Sanchez and Officer Naugle-Dudek evacuated the residents and had the persons evaluated by medical personnel at the scene.

Officer Sanchez kept the family with him until he could make arrangements with relatives for their lodging. Officer Naugle-Dudek assisted the other displaced residents in securing temporary housing in the complex, until their units could be declared structurally safe to inhabit.

There is little doubt that both their quick actions averted a potentially deadly situation.

These citizens, fast asleep, could have been overcome by smoke inhalation and perished in their home. Officer Sanchez and Officer Naugle-Dudek displayed heroism while disregarding their own personal safety during the structure fire.

Officer Teresa Naugle-Dudek and Officer Ernie Sanchez were awarded this Medal of Valor on April 17, 2002.

Undaunted, all of these men and women acted with great courage, in concert with one another and with the highest degree of professionalism. And it is their undying commitment to public safety and law enforcement that is so essential to the health of our communities. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I congratulate these individuals on their receipt of this tremendous honor.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ON THEIR ORANGE BOWL VICTORY

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2003

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the accomplishments of the University of Southern California football team. Congratulations are indeed in order for USC President Steven Sample, Head Coach Pete Carroll, and the Orange Bowl champions, who finished the season with the #1 ranking in the Sagarin and Matthews/Scripps Howard ratings and the nation's #4 ranking in the final AP and ESPN/USA Today polls.

The USC Trojan football team has shown unique skill, charisma, dedication, and love for the sport. The Trojans accumulated an 11 and 2 win-loss record while competing against some of the best programs in the country. The Trojans regular season performance and their strength of schedule earned them a Bowl Championship Series, or BCS, berth. Teamwork and a motivated work ethic combined to create second half domination over Iowa in the Orange Bowl. After going into the half tied 10-10, the Trojans mounted long touchdown marches on their first three possessions of the second half to blow open the game. USC finished the game 38-17, defeating a higher ranked Iowa Hawkeye team.

Now is also the appropriate time to congratulate quarterback Carson Palmer for winning the prestigious Heisman Trophy. This is the first time the trophy has returned to the west coast since USC running back Marcus Allen managed the feat 21 years ago. Carson Palmer is the 5th Heisman winner from USC. Palmer himself summed up the Trojan mind set this year when he stated, "I couldn't be more honored to take this trophy back to share with my teammates in Los Angeles . . . This award is as much theirs as it is mine."

Mr. Speaker, again I congratulate USC President Steven Sample, Head Coach Pete Carroll, and the football team at the University of Southern California for a season to remember.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE TO THE FAMILIES OF THE CREW OF THE SPACE SHUTTLE "COLUMBIA"

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I wish to honor the lives of the seven courageous individuals who tragically perished aboard the Space Shuttle *Columbia* on Saturday morning. Michael Anderson, David Brown, Kalpana Chawla, Laurel Clark, Rick Husband, William McCool, and Ilan Ramon are true heroes who leave behind a legacy of cooperation, hard work, and friendship that will live on and inspire future generations of scientists and space explorers. I offer my deepest condolences to the astronauts' families.

In the midst of this tragedy, may our Nation and the international community also pay homage to all of the selfless, courageous astronauts of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and other space agencies around the world. These men and women venture into the unknown in search of new knowledge. These complex, grueling, and dangerous missions have been the source of some of the greatest technological gains in history.

The goal of every astronaut is ultimately the betterment of mankind, and the seven explorers we lost on Saturday were working towards exactly that. They were working to understand complex mechanisms in the human body, collecting samples of their own blood, urine, and saliva to detect possible bone loss, kidney stones, muscle loss, or weakening of immune systems, to lead to developments in healthcare—like the dialysis equipment that my mother uses.

As the astronauts watched the Earth spin below them, observing climatic and atmospheric phenomena, they worked on projects to help lessen our footprint on the planet, including researching low-level combustion for use in leaner-burning automobile engines. The data from their research will have impact far into the future.

As people in my district of El Paso and across the Nation watched the *Columbia* fall from the sky on Saturday morning, we were gripped with awe and fear. We will rise out of this tragedy. The lessons that we learn from this day will bring us to a brighter tomorrow, a future in which more passionate young men and women truly become citizens of the universe, looking at the world from the vantage point of the stars. The crew of the *Columbia* lived an adventure which most of us can only imagine. As long as children look up to the sky and dream of touching the stars or standing on the moon, our memories of these brave men and women will live on.

THE RIM OF THE VALLEY CORRIDOR STUDY ACT

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2003

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Rim of the Valley Corridor Study

Act, directing the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture to study the feasibility of expanding the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to include the mountains and canyons in Southern California that are part of the Rim of the Valley Corridor, as designated by the State of California.

The National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service would jointly study the suitability of more than doubling the size of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area by encompassing this corridor, which contains areas of rare Mediterranean ecosystems and encircles the mountains above the San Fernando, La Crescenta, Santa Clarita, Simi, and Conejo Valleys, as well as the famed Arroyo Seco, home of Pasadena's Rose Bowl.

For many residents of Southern California, the mountains above our communities are a nearby haven to enjoy nature, a refuge from the noise and commotion of Los Angeles. Our mountains can and should be places where city-dwellers can easily go to enjoy such activities as hiking, camping, mountain biking, horseback riding, observing wildlife, and admiring nature's scenic beauty. Given the tremendous growth pressures in Southern California, we must act now to preserve our precious open space. It is my hope that the Rim of the Valley Corridor Study Act will embody a dream and vision of a Southern California enhanced not only by what was built, but also by what was preserved.

The National Park Service oversees the highly successful Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, the world's largest urban park, spanning from the mountains to the sea and protected in perpetuity by Congress in 1978. Inclusion of the Rim of the Valley Corridor would link wildlife habitat in the Santa Monica Mountains to the Angeles National Forest.

The Rim of the Valley Corridor Study Act would require the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture to complete their study within one to three years, consulting with state and local government entities. It would then be necessary for Congress to enact subsequent legislation to implement the study's recommendations.

I am pleased that this legislation has bipartisan support, with Reps. HOWARD BERMAN, DAVID DREIER, GEORGE MILLER, BRAD SHERRMAN, and HILDA SOLIS as principal co-sponsors. I am delighted that the senior Senator from California, Senator FEINSTEIN, is also introducing this important legislation today.

The Rim of the Valley Corridor Study Act will result in an initiative creating a lasting legacy of nearby natural open space for our children—and their children—to enjoy.

HONORING RICHARD WILLIAMS, JR.

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2003

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Richard Williams, Jr., who served as Blount County Commissioner from 1984 until recently.

Commissioner Williams was dedicated to his family, faith and Country. He was a great American.