

Working with the Boy Scouts of America was a joy Tom shared with his entire family. The Bolerjacks' two sons have been scouts for several years, and Tom was an active part of their experience. He served as an assistant den leader for Pack 170 and was the driving force behind Troop 589, starting the troop a few years ago with a handful of boys. Under Tom's leadership, both troops expanded their memberships to approximately thirty scouts.

In addition to serving as Cubmaster, Webelos leader, and Den leader, Tom was also very involved in Boy Scout training for youth and adults. Tom was the Cub Scout Leader Training Chair, the Boy Scout Leader Training Chair, Troop Committee Chair, and the Mustang District Training Chair. Tom also served on the Baloo, Arrowhead & Twin Arrows staff, and was a trainer for the youth protection and new leader programs. He assisted in the Trainer Development Conference. Tom earned his Wood Badge Beads and went on to staff Wood Badge as a Troop Guide. He also served on the organization's Twin Arrows/National Youth Leadership Training and was very active in the Order of the Arrow. Over the years he was honored with multiple awards, including the Cubmaster Award and the Den Leader Award.

Tom has been described as a giver, an outstanding example to others, and an inspiration to everyone who knew him. His friend Graham Crudginton described Tom best when he said, "His energy, his spirit, his dedication are all things that I admire, and are things that have pushed and inspired me to do things I wouldn't normally have done." Tom's ceaseless devotion to the community motivated others to get involved; his passion encouraged the passion of others.

I extend my sincerest condolences to Tom's wife Becky and his two sons, Tommy and B.J. My thoughts and prayers are with Tom's many friends and family members as they endure this difficult time. The North Texas community has lost a devoted citizen and a great man. He leaves behind a legacy of generosity and kindness. The compassion, commitment, and selflessness shown by Mr. Thomas Bolerjack are truly remarkable, and he should serve as an example to all. He will be deeply missed, but his service and dedication will always be greatly appreciated.

BLACK HISTORY EXHIBIT OPENS ON WEST COAST

HON. NORMAN D. DICKS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. DICKS. Madam Speaker, the United States Capitol Historical Society has prepared a fascinating exhibit of artifacts and interpretative materials entitled "From Freedom's Shadow: African Americans and the United States Capitol" which is being displayed across America this year. It is a depiction of what is truly one of the better kept secrets in our Nation's history: that the construction of the United States Capitol, and even the casting of the Statue of Freedom that sits atop the dome, was accomplished with the help of slave labor.

Earlier this month the exhibit opened on the West Coast, at Olympic High School in my

congressional district, and it has given everyone in my home community an interesting, yet disturbing, insight into one of the most troubling contradictions of American society in the 18th and 19th centuries. We were a society founded on the principle of freedom and yet even in the construction of the iconic seat of this Government we tolerated and benefited from the labor of people who were deprived of the essential freedoms that were celebrated beneath the Capitol Dome.

This is an important and instructive exhibit, Mr. Speaker, and I am honored to submit for the RECORD an article from the Central Kitsap Reporter that was published on March 1st, entitled "Black History exhibit at Oly exposes 'cruel irony'."

[From the Central Kitsap Reporter, Mar. 1, 2008]

BLACK HISTORY EXHIBIT AT OLY EXPOSES "CRUEL IRONY"

(By Paul Balcerak)

Central Kitsap School District board members, employees and educators had the tables turned on them Wednesday night.

It was their turn to learn as they got one of the first looks at the U.S. Capitol Historical Society's traveling exhibit, "From Freedom's Shadow: African Americans and the United States Capitol."

The exhibit, a production of the U.S. Capitol Historical Society, offers insight into one of the better kept dirty little secrets in American history: that the U.S. Capitol was built with help from black slave labor.

The exhibit put front-and-center a jarring truth which the historical society's Web site called a "cruel irony."

"It's a real tangible experience of the history that most people don't know," Olympic Principal Bob Barnes said.

Barnes admitted unawareness of the history before being introduced to the project during the plan to bring it to CKSD last year.

"In mainstream history, you get little snippets of things, but you don't really get a feel (for what things were actually like)," he said. "There are lots of little facts out there that our history, as it's written, doesn't necessarily reflect."

Documents showcased at the exhibit cover a period from 1794-1800 and shed light on some of the people history has forgotten. People like Philip Reid, a slave who, ironically, helped cast the five sections of "Freedom," the statue that sits atop the Capitol, in bronze.

The title of the exhibit is in reference to the statue itself.

It wasn't easy unearthing stories such as Reid's, as evidenced by the work exhibit curator Felicia Bell and her colleagues did to bring the exhibit to life.

"It was a lot of primary source research, but also secondary source research (to understand the context of the primary sources)," Bell said.

Also director of education and outreach for the historical society, Bell has spent countless hours at the National Archives, Library of Congress and various historical societies searching for any remnants of information that could contribute to the exhibit. Some of it is scant, but striking; Bell showed off an old timecard used to track all workers' hours that used an "N" next to slaves' names to denote them as "negroes."

The small document offered a blunt lesson: even timecards were segregated.

"It's chilling, but I think it's important to understand so we don't make those mistakes again," CKSD Curriculum Specialist Jeni Zapatka said.

Zapatka was responsible for discovering the exhibit and pushing to have it brought to

CKSD. Thanks to donations from UPS, the exhibit is shipped across the country for free and the only cost to the district was to bring Bell to the area to showcase the exhibit.

"It's fun to see how students from various locations and various backgrounds react to the exhibit," Bell said. "I think that it was kind of an eye-opener for students and adults."

She has traveled with the exhibit to various locations around the United States. Its arrival at Olympic, however, marks the first time either have ever been to the West Coast.

The exhibit is now in the hands of students at Olympic, who spent Thursday being trained as docents by Bell. They'll be the ones to pass information along to the public, which has a few opportunities to see the exhibit between now and March 19 (see gray box).

Students were equally outspoken and struck by the exhibit during their training day.

"I never knew anything about the Freedom statue and all the things the enslaved people had to go through to build the Capitol," junior Amanda

Vincent said. "As it stands now, this exhibit being here is top rate for me."

"I like that it's at our school because our school, in the district, is kind of known as the most diverse," junior Kylee McWilliams added.

The exhibit got high marks from those who saw it Wednesday and several involved expressed excitement for the project's value to students and the public.

"I'm just sorry we don't have it in a place that will be open more hours," school board member Christy Cathcart said. "There was . . . quite a lot of introspection going on (at Wednesday's showing)."

"Everyone went away with some knowledge that they didn't have before."

"From Freedom's Shadow" public viewing times

March 3, 5-7 p.m.

March 11, 6-9 p.m.

March 19, 6-9 p.m.

The exhibit is located in the Olympic High School library.

The exhibit also can be previewed online at <http://uschsonline-exhibits.uschs.org/freedom> (no "www.").

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL REAUTHORIZING THE NATIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM ACT

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, today I introduced a bill to reauthorize the National Sea Grant College Program Act.

The National Sea Grant College Program originally was established in 1966 upon the enactment of the National Sea Grant College Act, 33 U.S.C. 1121-1131, to improve marine resource conservation, management, and utilization. The act was last reauthorized by an act of the 107th Congress in 2002, and current authorizations of appropriations expire at the end of fiscal year 2008.

The National Sea Grant College Program is patterned after the Land Grant College System, which was created in 1862. Although originally assigned to the National Science Foundation, NSF, the National Sea Grant College Program was transferred in 1970 to the