



GOOSE CREEK

CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Ross S. Sterling Band Christmas Angels

The Ross S. Sterling High School Band is at it again --- on the prowl for a Christmas Project! They not only found one, but attacked it in a furious way!

With the help of Thresa Caldwell, Social Worker for Sterling High School, they were given the names of five elementary students who were in need of some Angels to brighten their Christmas. The band divided into groups, chose the student for which they would be Angels, made lists, collected money, and set off shopping! Upon their return to the Band Hall, the wrapping began! Paper, tissue, tape, ribbons, tags and even scissors began to fly! Cutting, curling, taping, and tying was at its best as the presents became works of art.

Santa's sleigh slowly approached the Band Hall and came to a halt. The Christmas Angels raced to the sleigh, eager to fill it to capacity! As Santa admired the time, effort, and love which each of these Angels had given, he reminded them that Christmas was born of Love and their project exemplified that the Love of the first Christmas still lives in the hearts of people today!



Front Row: Matthew King, Shayna Smith, Christian Wood, Delaney Anderson; Second Row: Christopher Lewis, Justin Rickman, Jacob Fogle

It was standing room only at Sterling's Winnie Brown Gymnasium for the Lee vs. Sterling game as the new basketball court was named in honor of former Ross S. Sterling head basketball coach Walter R. "Woody" Walker. Among the guests were friends, family members, former co-workers and former players wishing to honor Walker.

Walker, who began his coaching career in 1955 at Baytown Junior School after playing basketball for Texas A & M University and serving in the U.S. Air Force, became head basketball coach at Ross S. Sterling High School in 1966, the year the school opened.

Known as the "Father of Sterling Basketball," Walker's basketball teams earned two district championships and advanced to playoffs eight times. His golf teams won 13 district championships and advanced once to the state finals. Walker retired in 1988, but he continues to support the Sterling Rangers basketball program.

The dedication began with Randal O'Brien, acting superintendent, welcoming everyone and introducing special guests. Al Dennis, former RSS head football coach and athletic coordinator; Jim Finley, former managing editor of the *Baytown Sun* and Dr. Jimmy Creel, former RSS principal and executive director of secondary education, told a few stories about Walker, describing him as a role model to his players.

Mayor Stephen DonCarlos read a proclamation from the City of Baytown, highlighting some of Walker's achievements and proclaiming December 9, 2014, as Walter R. "Woody" Walker Day in Baytown.

Sterling Principal Kevin Foxworth officially dedicated the new basketball court and presented a plaque to Walker, who expressed his appreciation to everyone for this honor. He also introduced his wife Joy, noting that as a P.E. teacher at Robert E. Lee High School, she and another P.E. teacher had been given five basketballs and five volleyballs to start the first girls athletic teams at the school.

Walker's four children and their families were all in attendance for the dedication. His sons, all former Goose Creek CISD athletes, followed in their father's footsteps as Texas A & M graduates and coaches. David, former basketball and tennis coach at Lee High School; Jim, teacher and coach at Gentry Junior School; and John, former swimming coach at La Porte High School, also inherited their father's competitive nature.



(l to r) Kevin Foxworth, Sterling principal; Woody Walker, former RSS head basketball coach; Joy Walker, Woody's wife; Bernie Mulvaney, GCCISD athletic director; Randal O'Brien, GCCISD acting superintendent and Pete Gareri, Sterling head football coach and athletic coordinator, pose in front of the plaque that was unveiled in the lobby of the Winnie Brown Gymnasium after the new basketball court was dedicated to Walker. View photo gallery [here](#).

Daughter Deborah Walker Jentsch, also an Aggie, danced with the Sterling Stars and played four years on the varsity golf team. The influence the Walker family has had on Goose Creek CISD athletics is impressive.

Thomas Hotchkiss, varsity player, presented Joy Walker with a bouquet of flowers, and each member of the Sterling Rangers basketball team gave her a hug. A bronze plaque was unveiled in the lobby of the gym, bearing Walker's picture and the highlights of his career. Afterwards, friends and former players, many having traveled from all over Texas, congratulated Walker and relived memories.

"It was one of the greatest nights that I have ever experienced," said Walker. "Getting to hug all my friends and former players and having my family there was wonderful. I appreciate all that everybody did for the dedication."

To top it all off, the Rangers were victorious over the Ganders, making it a perfect evening for the former Sterling coach.



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