

A Celebration of The Life
of
Ronald W. Walters, Ph.D.



July 20, 1938 - September 10, 2010

September 20, 2010
Shiloh Baptist Church
1500 Ninth Street, Northwest
Washington, D.C.

To the Family and Friends of Dr. Ronald Walters:

Hillary and I were saddened to learn of Ron's death, and we extend our deepest sympathy.

Ron Walters lived through -- and helped to define -- some of the most fascinating times our country has known. Born into a deeply segregated society, he knew our country could do better. At the age of 20, he put his ideals into action by staging what is regarded as the first lunch-counter sit-in.

Ron never gave up on his ideals, and he never stopped working to put them into action. Using his gifts of intellect, education, and conscience, he played a role in everything from the development of the Congressional Black Caucus to ending apartheid in South Africa, and he inspired others through his writings and teachings. Ron never asked for recognition for any of his accomplishments, but today, we recognize that his impact has been profound and far reaching.

Like so many others, Hillary and I remember well the events and movement that Ron helped make happen. But now an entire generation of Americans has grown up without witnessing firsthand the great civil rights struggles and victories of the 1960s. It is therefore more important than ever that we sustain the memory of Dr. Walters and the other heroes -- celebrated and unsung -- who helped put our nation on the path of righteousness.

As you pay tribute to Ron and remember what he meant to each of you, Hillary and I will be keeping you in our thoughts. Our hearts go out especially to Ron's wife, Patricia, to his brothers Duane, Terrence, and Kevin, and to his sisters Marcia and Sharon. You are in our prayers.

Sincerely,

Bill Clinton

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 20, 2010

The Family and Friends of
Dr. Ronald W. Walters
Washington, D.C.

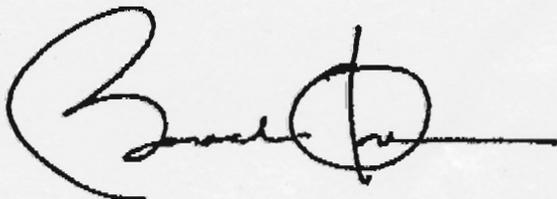
Dear Friends:

I was saddened to hear about the passing of Dr. Ron Walters. Please accept my sympathies as you mourn his loss and reflect upon his life.

Dr. Walters was a leading voice for the African-American community and will be missed. I hope you will be consoled by the memories of your time with him and comforted by the presence of family and friends.

My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be Barack Obama's signature, written in a cursive style with a large initial 'B' and a circular flourish.

HOWARD UNIVERSITY

Secretary of the Board of Trustees

September 13, 2010

Mrs. Patricia Walters
609 Mission Hill Court
Silver Spring, Maryland 20905

Dear Mrs. Walters:

Mr. Addison Barry Rand, Chairman of Howard University's Board of Trustees, and President Sidney A. Ribeau asked that I respectfully advise you of the adoption of the following resolution by the Howard University Board of Trustees:

RESOLUTION

The Board of Trustees of Howard University wishes to include in its official records a very special expression of sincere condolence to Mrs. Patricia Walters on the passing of her beloved husband, Dr. Ronald Walters, Past Chairman of the Political Science Department. Dr. Walters, long-time faculty member, political activist and scholar, and a leading expert on race and politics, was instrumental in the development of the department: a major source of doctoral graduates. Dr. Walter's scholarly research was part of his larger dedication to service, and throughout the 25 years he was with us, he formed the field of Black Politics, organized the African continental and South African liberation struggle, and enhanced the effectiveness of Black peoples' participation in presidential politics. A distinguished academician and intellectual giant, Dr. Walters is highly regarded as a preeminent international political scientist. Words cannot convey the heartfelt sympathy we share with Mrs. Walters at this time. The Board desires to convey to Mrs. Walters and her family that all its members share their grievous loss.

Be It Therefore Resolved: That this expression of sympathy toward the death of Dr. Ronald Walters be spread upon the minutes of the Board of Trustees of Howard University.

Attest:



Artis G. Hampshire-Cowan, Esq.
Secretary of the Board of Trustees





UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

1101 Main Administration Building
College Park, Maryland 20742-5025
301.405.5803 TEL 301.314.9560 FAX

In 1996, the University of Maryland proudly welcomed internationally renowned political scientist Ron Walters to our faculty. He was an eminent and inspiring professor, teacher, author, activist, and human being. Even the three major titles he held -- director of the African American Leadership Institute, distinguished leadership scholar at the James MacGregor Burns Academy of Leadership, and professor of government and politics -- did not fully convey the importance of his stellar academic and campus contributions.

Professor Walters' spirit, activism, scholarship, and humanity live on vibrantly through his extensive writings, which include hundreds of newspaper columns, scholarly articles, and books; through his transformative influence on the work and lives of the many students he taught and mentored; through the profound ideas, wisdom, and help he shared with his colleagues; and in the treasured memories of all who knew him.

Ron Walters' death is a tremendous loss not only to our community, but also to our society. He made a very real and lasting difference in the world and to all those who knew him. On behalf of the University of Maryland, I extend our sincerest condolences to his wife, Patricia, and to all his family, friends, and colleagues.

Sincerely,

Nariman Farvardin
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost
and Acting President



Premier of Bermuda

16th September 2010

Mrs. Patricia Ann Walters

Dear Mrs. Walters.

On behalf of the Government and people of Bermuda, please allow me to express our sympathy to you and your family. As you know better than most, Ronnie's life was not at all in vain. For almost a decade we shared our stories, wishes and hopes for Howard University. When I was a trustee and he was a faculty member, we talked in person and long distance about the Howard University we wanted to see. I enjoyed those chats because I had found one of those persons who was as impatient as I am.

He wanted the best for Howard and the best for Black people, wherever we found ourselves.

When his niece Selena joined my political party here in Bermuda, it felt like Ronnie had checked in and I sensed relief.

He was unrelenting in his work to move us all to a place where we would better reflect our true abilities.

Thank you for sharing him with us!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'E. Brown'.

Dr. the Hon. Ewart F. Brown. JP, MP

The Cabinet Office, 105 Front Street, Hamilton H. 12, Bermuda
Telephone: 441-292-5501 • Facsimile: 441-292-0304 • E-mail: ebrown@gov.bm

SAM BROWNSACK
FAX: 202-224-7295
202-224-7295

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1604

COMMITTEE
APPROPRIATIONS
COMMERCE, SCIENCE
AND TRANSPORTATION
ENERGY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES
FINANCIAL SERVICES
HEALTH, EDUCATION
AND LABOR

September 17, 2010

Mrs. Patricia Turner Walters
609 Mission Hills Ct.
Silver Spring, MD 20905

To Mrs. Patricia Turner Walters and Family:

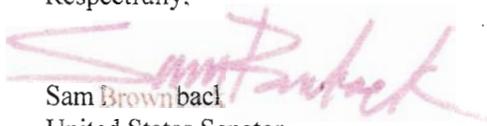
On September 10, 2010, our nation lost a true American hero and Kansas lost one of its most glorious native sons, Dr. Ronald W. Walters.

True to his Kansas roots, Dr. Walters was a trailblazer for justice and equality. He dedicated his life to freedom and democracy and became one of the most celebrated and sought after civil rights activists and scholars of our time. In 1958 as a young student in Wichita, Kansas, Dr. Walters not only shed light on the injustice of segregation but he uncovered its ugliness and led the way in extinguishing its existence. Though his sit-in was held in the middle of America the effect reverberated around the nation and is widely considered by scholars to be the nation's first lunch-counter sit-in protests, which paved the way to ending segregation in our country.

As we remember this extraordinary civil rights leader, scholar, humanitarian, and Kansan, Dr. Walters' legacy challenges us to strive for greater clarity in our service to one another and hold this country to the ideals rooted in the very fabric of America that we are one nation united under God. It is in this spirit, that I will very shortly introduce a Resolution in the United States Senate to honor Dr. Walter's life and legacy.

Though I know your hearts are heavy at this very difficult time, we are comforted with the assurance that Dr. Walters is resting in the loving arms of God. Revelation 21:4 states, "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain (KJV)." May God comfort you in your hour of sorrow.

Respectfully,


Sam Brownback
United States Senator



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS
SEVENTH DISTRICT
MARYLAND

September 13, 2010

To the Family of Dr. Ron Walters

Dear Family:

Mere words cannot express how saddened I was to hear of the sudden passing of your loved one, Dr. Ron Walters.

I know this is a difficult time for you and I extend my deepest sympathy. I sincerely believe that nothing we experience in life can be more devastating than the loss of a loved one, and my heart goes out to you.

Dr. Ron Walters taught me as a student at Howard University during the early seventies. He was a man of great integrity and intellect. He was such a popular professor that there were waiting lists to get into his classes. However, he was a very strict grader. Whenever I was faced with difficult political decisions in life, the professor would always find time for me. He would provide me with the benefits of his thoughts, opinions and extensive knowledge. While he was a quiet man, his opinions always carried a lot of weight in the world of politics and beyond. Dr. Walters was a man who consistently told me what I needed to hear even though I may not have wanted to hear it. He touched the lives of all the students who had the honor of being a part of any of his classes.

Dr. Walters was also one of my most reliable and brilliant mentors. He truly brought life to my life and to the lives of the many people he touched. I will be forever grateful to Dr. Walters for seeing qualities in me that I did not see in myself. He will be greatly missed. A true giant of a man has fallen. However, he has left this world a better place than the one that existed the day he was born. For this and many other reasons I am thankful that my life eclipsed with his. May God bless his soul.

Please know that my prayers are with you as you seek solace and peace during this grievous time. May the memories that you hold dear and the love that surrounds you be a source of comfort and strength.

If there is anything I can do to be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to call on me.

Sincerely,


Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress

The Life and Legacy of **Ronald W. Walters, Ph.D.**

Ronald W. Walters, “Ron,” was born July 20, 1938, in Wichita, Kansas, and departed this life peacefully on September 10, 2010. The eldest son of Maxine and Gilmar “Butter” Walters, Ron had 6 other siblings. His father, a retired civil servant, a “Buffalo Soldier,” and a Tuskegee Airman, was also a professional musician. Ron’s mother was a Kansas State Civil Rights Investigator. The Walters were socially aware parents and raised their children to respect African and African American History. From this environment, Ron emerged as an inquisitive and intellectual young man who observed and questioned inequalities related to race in America.

In July 1958, Ron was student President of the local chapter of the NAACP Youth Council. He was the architect, and along with Carol Parks, his cousin, organized the Wichita sit-in at the Dockum drugstore against the establishment’s “whites only” policy. The Wichita sit-in was not widely reported but this successful technique served as the model for the Greensboro, North Carolina 1960 Woolworth lunch counter sit-in. Ron continued to work with the Wichita Chapter of the NAACP and The Urban League over the years.

At Fisk University, Ron was a member of Kappa Alpha Psi, and a Tenor with the famed Jubilee Singers. He graduated with honors in 1963 with a BA in History and Government. In that same year he married the love of his life, Patricia Turner. Ron was deeply honored to return to his beloved Fisk University, in May, 2010, as the Commencement Speaker and to receive his honorary doctorate. A fellowship to attend American University brought Ron to Washington, D.C. where he earned his Master’s degree in African Studies in 1966 and subsequently a Doctorate in International Studies in 1971. He began his teaching career in the late 1960s at Syracuse University, and later became the first Chairman of African American Studies at Brandeis University.

In the early 1970s, he joined the faculty at Howard University as Chairman of the Political Science Department where he served for 15 of his 25 years at the institution. Ron was very successful in recruiting the best young political scientists to his department, and equally successful in developing a doctoral program.

Ron also served as visiting professor at Princeton University and as a fellow of the Institute of Politics at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.

As Ron’s scholarship, expertise and experiences developed in the area of race and politics, he brilliantly paired it with “strategic activism,” applying theory and research to practice and policies that would help resolve social injustices facing African Americans and their communities well beyond the walls of academia.

Ron served as a top adviser to Rep. Charles Diggs, the first chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, helping him conceptualize the strategic vision of the Caucus. Ron also served as an advisor to Rep. William Gray. Ron was a respected consultant to black political leaders, scholars, organizations, governments, and black executives. In 1977, he co-founded TransAfrica, an organization that led the fight against South African Apartheid, and fought to improve conditions in the Caribbean, as well as the continent of Africa. As a result of his efforts, he was invited to serve on the Special Committee Against Apartheid of the Security Council of the United Nations.

In 1983, Ron published his seminal work, “Black Presidential Politics in America,” which won the Ralph Bunche award from the American Political Science Association. The following year, the book served as a blueprint for the historic Democratic presidential run of Reverend Jesse Jackson. Ron became Jackson’s Campaign Manager on Issues, and the strategic architect of the campaign in

1984 and 1988. The campaign introduced hundreds of young Black Americans to the world of politics, civic participation and political leadership. The activism of many influential African Americans in the Democratic Party today began with Ron's introduction and training into the process of politics.

In 1996, Ron accepted a position at the University of Maryland as Professor of Government and Politics. Ron directed the African American Leadership Institute and served as the Distinguished Scholar in Residence at the James MacGregor Burns Academy of Leadership where he oversaw research projects addressing social inequalities. Ron retired in 2009, after 13 years, though he never retired from his activism, research, lecturing, writing, teaching and mentoring of talented young African American students.

In 2010, Ron returned to Howard University as a Senior Research Fellow in the College of Arts and Sciences, Office of the Dean, bringing him full-circle and back to his beloved Howard U.

Over the years, Ron received many honors and awards including the Howard University Distinguished Faculty Award for Community Service; the W.E.B. Du Bois/Frederick Douglass Award, African Heritage Studies Association; winner of the Best Book award from the American Political Science Association in 1983, and the National Conference of Black Political Scientists (NCOBPS) where he was also a founding member; Distinguished Scholar/Activist Award, The Black Scholar Magazine, 1984; the Ida B. Wells-Barnett Award, Association of Black School Educators in 1985; Fannie Lou Hammer Award, National Conference of Black Political Scientists; Distinguished Faculty Contributions to Diversity, University of Maryland; and the Wells-W.E.B. Du Bois Award for Distinguished Scholarship from the National Council for Black Studies.

In recent years, Ron has received the much deserved recognition for his many significant contributions to the Civil Rights Movement. In 2006, he received a medal from the National office of the NAACP for his effective act of civil disobedience in Kansas. July, 2008 marked the 50th anniversary of the Wichita lunch counter sit-in. Ron had come full circle. He said, when asked about those courageous six weeks of protest, "If the young kids - black, brown, white - can understand from our example, that they too can make change, then it seems to me that's important. That it was worth it".

Ron was a legendary scholar, thinker, and activist in the tradition of W.E.B. Du Bois and John Hope Franklin, who were his heroes. Like them, he left a map to help guide us. Through the thirteen books that he authored, numerous articles, national television and radio appearances, we have a reference point for strategic thinking regarding social justice issues. One of Ron's greatest legacies is the hundreds of students he mentored whose achievements speak to his tireless dedication. In his last weekly syndicated column, he recalled "the progressive spirit of the original Nonviolent March on Washington" in August 1963, "which held out the hope of racial reconciliation and that America would finally cash a check of justice that would allow all of us to invest in the great project of democracy."

"Ronnie," as he was affectionately called, is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 47 years, Patricia Turner Walters, three brothers, Duane Walters of Atlanta, Terrence Walters of Oklahoma City and Kevin Walters of Bowie; and two sisters, Marcia Walters-Hardeman of Austin and Sharon Walters of Atlanta, and a devoted aunt, Shirley Fisher of California, and a host of other relatives and cherished friends.

Order of Service

Musical Prelude		Mr. Thomas Tyler, Organist
Welcome		The Rev. George E. Mensah, Sr. Executive Minister, Shiloh Baptist Church
Presiding		The Rev. Dr. Bernard L. Richardson, Dean, Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel
Hymn	<i>His Eye Is On The Sparrow</i>	Shiloh Choir
Scripture	Old Testament: Psalms 23 New Testament: John 14: 1-3	The Rev. Kimberly Barnes The Rev. Wendell Anthony
Musical Selection	<i>The Lord's Prayer</i>	Ms. Santita Jackson
Words of Comfort		The Rev. Dr. Barbara Williams Skinner
Acknowledgement/Resolutions		Dr. Ramona H. Edelin
Special Reflections		Dr. Sidney A. Ribeau, President, Howard University Dr. William E. Kirwan, Chancellor, University of Maryland Mr. Benjamin Todd Jealous, President, NAACP The Hon. John Conyers, U.S. Representative The Hon. Eleanor Holmes Norton, U.S. Representative
Musical Selections	<i>Troubles of the World</i> <i>To God Be the Glory</i>	Ms. Santita Jackson
Family Reflections		Mr. Duane Walters, Brother Mr. Kevin Walters, Brother Ms. Arlena Fitch-Gordon, Sister-in-law Dr. Robert Newby, Professor Emeritus, Central Michigan University
Musical Selection		Shiloh Choir
Eulogy		The Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr.
Benediction		The Rev. Dr. Bernard L. Richardson
Recessional	<i>This Little Light of Mine</i>	Choir and All Assembled

Interment at the Gate of Heaven Cemetery 13801 Georgia Ave, Silver Spring, MD 20906

Repast following Interment at Shiloh Baptist Church

“The Love of my Life”



My Beloved Ron,

It seems like just yesterday, our eyes met for the first time, and we both knew that we had just found our “soul mate”.

Since that very first day, as our friendship blossomed into an everlasting love, we were blessed with days, weeks, months and years of memories that will last a lifetime.

As I sit here today and I reflect back upon these memories, my mind, soul and heart remind me that there is a time to be born, and a time to die. There is a time to weep and a time to laugh. There is a time to mourn and a time to rejoice.

I feel your presence and your spirit, telling me that everything will be all right because you are, have been, and forever will be, “the love of my life”.

Your Loving Wife, “Pat”
September 20, 2010

Special Comments

Nancy Pelosi – Speaker, House of Representatives

Let me first begin by acknowledging that last weekend we our nation lost a very special person, Dr. Ronald Walters – a civil rights leader, scholar, and a friend and adviser to many policymakers, including members of the Congressional Black Caucus and beyond. In his youth, Dr. Walters organized sit-ins at lunch counters and marched for justice. Throughout his life, he used his understanding of policy to effect change from within the halls of power. Dr. Walters was a fierce believer that, in his words, 'If it's morally right, it can't be politically wrong.'

Michael Eric Dyson – Professor, Georgetown University

Professor Walters embodied the noble legacy of fierce, intellectual warriors who combat oppression and battle injustice with their pen and voice. His analyses of the political and social plight of black America, and his lucid, eloquent defense of the vulnerable and often forgotten black working classes and the poor, stand as hallmarks of a remarkable and influential vocation. Ron Walters was one of the great intellectual activists and political scientists of our times.

Sharon Harley – Professor, University of Maryland

It is impossible to capture the excitement that campus faculty, students, and administrators felt when we were able to recruit Professor Ron Walters—one of the most respected black scholars and public intellectuals—from his beloved Howard University. Retiring from Howard did not mean that Ron was slowing down - not in the least! He brought to the University of Maryland the same high level of boundless energy, intellectual productivity, and unwavering commitment to racial justice and human rights - issues he had championed since his undergraduate days at Fisk University. At his University of Maryland campus retirement party, Pat Walters, Ron's wife and life partner, spoke lovingly of her admiration for Ron - the committed scholar, lifelong friend, and loving husband. When she finished, there was barely a dry eye in the room. We learned that day even more about why we, too, loved and adored this generous human being and cherished campus citizen.

Nariman Farvardin– Acting President, University of Maryland

Ron Walters was an eminent and inspiring professor, teacher, author, mentor and human being. He had a great impact and made a real difference in the world and to all those who knew him. His death is a tremendous loss. Our sincerest condolences go out to his wife, Patricia, and all his family.

Dr. Boyce Watkins - Resident of the Institute for Black Public Policy

I woke up today to find that the sun would shine a little bit less brightly than it did the day before. The first e-mail I read was one telling me that Ronald Walters, a noted black political scientist at the University of Maryland, had died. He was 72 years old. Dr. Walters was the director of the African American Leadership Institute. He was also the campaign manager during Rev. Jesse Jackson's presidential run in 1984. I knew Dr. Walters as a mentor and friend. He was also on the faculty here at Syracuse University at one point in his career, long before my own. He was one of the most respectable and accomplished black scholars I've ever met, and he was appreciated by nearly everyone. His advice on leadership, activism and black empowerment was second to none.

Barbara Lee – Chairwoman, Congressional Black Caucus

Professor Walters was a scholarly giant and was one of America's most insightful analysts of the political landscape, in general, and of the intersection of race, politics and policy, specifically. His scholarly work and sound advice, have assisted many past and present members of the Congressional Black Caucus and other African American political and civic leaders around the country.

Gary Flowers – Black Leadership Forum

Dr. Walters was a gentleman, scholar and a prolific political scientist. As a scientist, he not only observed politics, but transformed politics. Dr. Walters was the political engine that powered political campaigns, most notably that of Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr. He spoke truth to power."

There is no replacing Dr. Ronald Walters. I can't think of a more significant figure in the field of black political science. He was also a good human being. I recall speaking to him at a speaking engagement we did together, and he talked to me like I was his own son. He expressed the importance of young black scholars continuing the legacy of social justice and fighting to do what is right. I will never forget him, and his words will impact me forever. Ronald Walters, may you rest in peace.

Elijah E. Cummings – Representative (D-MD), United States Congress

Dr. Ron Walters taught me as a student at Howard University during the early seventies. He was a man of great integrity and intellect. He was such a popular professor that there were waiting lists to get into his classes. However, he was a very strict grader. Whenever I was faced with difficult political decisions in life, the professor would always find time for me. He would provide me with the benefits of his thoughts, opinions and extensive knowledge. While he was a quiet man, his opinions always carried a lot of weight in the world of politics and beyond. He was a man who consistently told me what I needed to hear even though I may not have wanted to hear it. He touched the lives of all the students who had the honor of being a part of any of his classes.

Dr. Walters was not only my teacher. He was also one of my most reliable and brilliant mentors. He truly brought life to my life and to the lives of the many people he touched. I will be forever grateful to Dr. Walters for seeing qualities in me that I did not see in myself. He will be greatly missed. A true giant of a man has fallen. However, he has left this world a better place than the one that existed the day he was born. For this and many other reasons I am thankful that my life eclipsed with his. May God bless his soul.

Dr. Ron Daniels – President of Institute of Black World

By now the world has received the stunning news that our pre-eminent political scientist, scholar-activist extraordinaire and fearless Pan Africanist freedom fighter Dr. Ronald Walters now rests with the ancestors. Friday September 10, 2010 at approximately 7 p.m., he peacefully made his transition to join the pantheon of heroes and heroines of the Black Freedom Struggle - a brilliant, quiet, resolute, caring, determined, warm, militant, compassionate, uncompromising, sharing, dedicated, gentle warrior who consistently demonstrated an "undying love for African people."

Dr. Ronald Walters was indefatigable in defending and promoting the interests of Black people, a humble Brother who never tired of sharing his knowledge, skill and talent with others working for the liberation of the oppressed. In the tradition of W.E.B. DuBois, Dr. Walters was an authentic intellectual, an action-oriented theorist who never wavered in his conviction that the lessons learned in the academy must be translated/applied in terms of activism in the community. As one of the founders of the African Heritage Studies Association and proponent of "education for liberation," he believed the academy should be relevant to underserved and disadvantaged communities, particularly the Black community. Therefore, he was a leading member of the National Council of Black Studies and National Conference of Black Political Scientists, organizations dedicated to that vision/mission.

Dr. Yvonne Scruggs-Leftwich – Executive Director, Center for Community and Economic Justice, Inc.

Many years ago, when I was the executive director of President Jimmy Carter's National Urban Policy task force, I met my fellow political scientist Ron Walters. He was a young visionary then and, predictably, became a visionary who provided candid, analytically penetrating leadership through-out the rest of his life. He spoke truth to power and, not inconsequentially, to the Black community, without hesitation. He knew what he stood for, and therefore, he did not fall for any dissembling or obfuscation about where African American's best interests lay or what our priorities ought to be. He loved the power of words to galvanize our efforts and focus our attention on what was important and how we might best proceed.

Jesse Jackson, Jr. – Representative (D-IL), United States Congress

Last week, our country lost a moral and intellectual giant. Dr. Ronald W. Walters, a professor of politics and leadership at the University of Maryland, passed away on Friday at the age of 72. His quiet, humble nature belied the scope of his mind and the breadth of his interests. I was with Dr. Walters and his wife, Pat, on Friday, praying with him and my father, Reverend Jesse Jackson. While it was a sad day, I am comforted by the fact that he will not suffer any more from the cancer that took his life.

Dr. Walters was that rare combination of activist and academic. He was as comfortable discussing the most complex aspects of policy and culture as he was in laying out the nuts-and-bolts tactics of a political campaign - he was equal parts street corner strategist and ivory tower theorist. In that vein, the greatest testament to Dr. Walters' work is the extent to which his ideas and pursuits have manifested themselves in changed realities and beliefs in our country. He was a champion of comprehensive health care for all Americans and for a two-state solution in the Middle East before either proposal was accepted by the mainstream. When Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans and the Gulf Coast, Dr. Walters was a clear voice for the poor and left-behind citizens of the region, calling on our government to live up to its promise by looking out for the least among us.

On the political side, he was one of the chief architects of my father's presidential campaigns in 1984 and 1988. While Reverend Jackson ultimately did not win the presidency, the campaigns literally changed the face of American electoral politics by inviting millions of new voters into the process and inspiring a generation of political leaders, strategists and activists. In his role on my father's campaigns, Dr. Walters was the driving force behind the adoption of proportional allocation of delegates in the Democratic primary system. That shift made our nomination process fairer and more "small-d" democratic, and laid the groundwork for 2008's epic, historic contest between then-Senators Hillary Rodham Clinton and Barack Obama. Indeed, President Obama's ascent from the Illinois State Senate, to our state's junior United States Senator to the first African-American Commander-in-Chief would not have been possible without the pioneering work of so many who came before him, with Dr. Walters at the head of that class.

Throughout his long career, Dr. Walters never forgot the practical, every day work that needed to be done on behalf of all Americans to make our country a better place. Early in his life, Dr. Walters participated in one of the very first lunch-counter sit-ins at the dawn of the Civil Rights Movement, in his hometown of Wichita, Kansas. Later, he was a key confidant of Rep. Charles Diggs of Michigan, the first chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus. Until his final days, Dr. Walters was in constant contact with CBC members and our staffs.

As the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's 40th Annual Legislative Conference gets underway on September 15th, I'm sure many participants will have Dr. Walters in their hearts. If the CBC is the conscience of the Congress, as many have said, then he was our moral, spiritual and intellectual backbone. I will miss Dr. Walters' friendship and guidance, and our country will miss the profound role he played in our political and intellectual life. I only wish there were more giants like him to lean on.

Ron Walters, Community's "Tallest Tree", Dead at 72

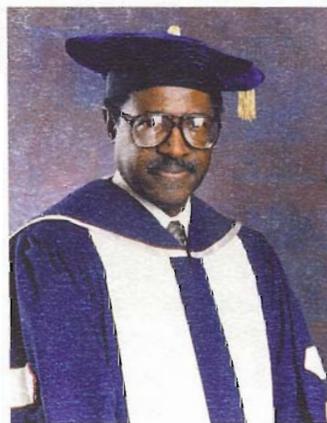
By Talibah Chikwendu – The Washington Afro American [excerpts]

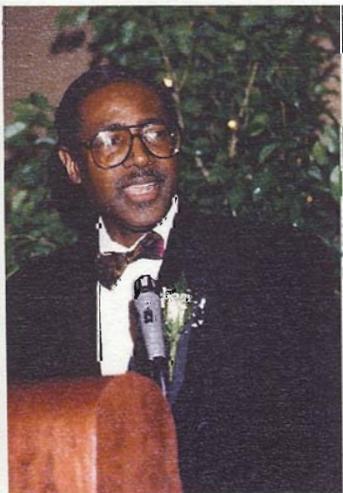
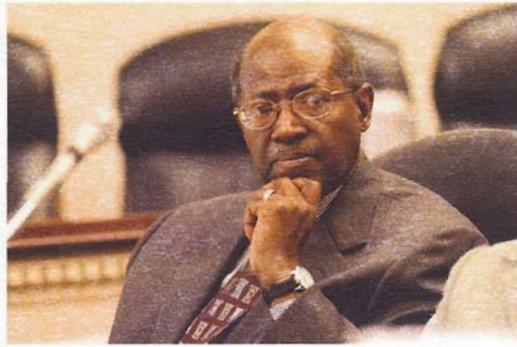
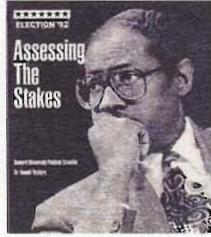
For more than four decades, Ronald Walters, PhD. served the African-American community, the United States and the world as a consultant, teacher, writer, mentor and friend. His service came to a close Sept. 10, when he lost a battle with cancer at Suburban Hospital in Bethesda, Md. He was 72 years old.

Walters also made his mark as a dedicated scholar, authoring and co-authoring more than 10 books and hundreds of academic articles and commentaries. He was awarded the Ralph Bunche Prize for his book *Black Presidential Politics in America*. He was also a political consultant, serving as policy adviser to former congressmen William Gray and Charles Diggs. He worked with a number of organizations and serving as director of public policy for the Rev. Jesse Jackson's presidential campaigns.

Jackson, who said he visited Walters several times in the hospital over the last few weeks, called Walters a "scholar activist" and "a genius," as well as friend and mentor.

"He's [Walters] the tallest tree in the forest of activists, political scientists," Jackson said in an interview with the AFRO. "I miss him so much already."





Pallbearers

Mr. Daron S. Fitch, Esq.
Mr. Jonathan Jackson
Mr. Sunni Khalid
Mr. Gregory Turner

Dr. Robert Newby
Dr. Robert Smith
Dr. Galyn Vesey
Mr. Kevin Walters, Jr.

Honorary Pallbearers

Dr. Nancy Arnez
Ms. Amy Billingsley
Mr. Don Coleman
Mr. Charles E. Cotten
Representative Elijah Cummings
Ms. Lynn Dozier
Dr. Ramona Edelin
Dr. Lawrence Gary
Ms. Anita Moore-Hackney
Dr. Sharon Harley

Dr. Joseph Harris
Representative Jesse Jackson, Jr.
Dr. Lynn Jeffries
Dr. John L. Johnson
Dr. Wilmer Leon
Reverend Joseph Lowery
Mr. Gilbert Maddox
Dr. Julianne Malveaux
Dr. Joseph McCormick, II

Dr. Lorenzo Morris
Mr. Joseph Pegues
Dr. Donna D. Rice
Dr. Elsie Scott
Dr. Barbara Williams Skinner
Mr. Gregory C. Syphax
Reverend Al Sharpton
Dr. James Turner
Dr. Barbara Wheeler

Acknowledgments

The family wishes to acknowledge, with great appreciation, all of the kind expressions of sympathy and loving concern. Special thanks to the Reverend Jesse Jackson, Sr. and family. Special thanks to President Sidney A. Ribeau and the Howard University family for all of their love, generosity and support. Special thanks to Shiloh Baptist Church and the Reverend Wallace Charles Smith.

Special Appreciation

We wish to give thanks to the wonderful hospital staff at Suburban Hospital, with special thanks to nurse Lindsey Smith, nurse Charon Wallace and respiratory therapist Solomon Johnson, Jr., who took exceptional care of Ron.

**A Special Thank You to
The Planning Committee**

Mr. Kent Amos
Ms. Amy Billingsley
Mrs. Wallie Cotton
Mrs. Artis Hampshire Cowan
Dr. Suzanna Dotson
Dr. Ramona Edelin
Mrs. Anita Moore-Hackney
Mrs. Gladys Johnson
Dr. Steven Johnson
Dr. Joyce Ladner

Mr. Joe Leonard, Jr.
Ms. Shirley Lewis
Ms. Muriel Lewis
Rev. George Mensah
Ms. Minyon Moore
Dean Bernard Richardson
Dr. Elsie Scott
Rev. Dr. Barbara Williams Skinner
Ms. Ermette Williams

Please send memorial contributions to:

Ronald W. Walters Scholarship Fund

Howard University, Office of Development and Alumni Relation
Attention: Mrs. Nesta Bernard, Vice President of Development
2225 Georgia Avenue, Suite 901
Washington, D.C. 20059

Arrangements By
McGuire Funeral Home