

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
REMARKS TO THE U.S. OLYMPIC TEAM
ATLANTA, GEORGIA
JULY 19, 1996**

It is a great honor to share this day with so many other heroes and soon-to-be heroes of the Olympic Movement.

Dr. Walker, let me thank you for your tireless efforts as President of the U.S. Olympic Committee these past four years and for your lifetime of commitment to American and international sports. As a coach, educator, and administrator, you have touched the lives of countless athletes and young people, nurturing not just national and Olympic champions but also great citizens of this country.

The President and I are delighted to see that the co-chairs of the Council on Physical Fitness and Sports are here today. Thank-you Tom McMillan and Florence Griffith-Joyner for your leadership and hard work on the council. Let me also thank Wayne Cluff, the President of Georgia Tech, for sharing his campus with our team and literally, the world, during this Olympic fortnight.

[And let me also thank a special group people: the 100 AmeriCorps and Senior Corps members who will be assisting in security for these games.???)

I think all of us have been eager for this day to arrive. More than three months ago, Chelsea and I had the privilege of seeing the lighting of the Olympic flame amid olive, orange and lemon groves and the ancient stadium at Olympia, Greece. It's hard to believe that in this short space of time, the flame has traveled from those beautiful Olympic ruins across Greece, across the Atlantic, and across our country to arrive tonight and light these Atlanta Games.

The flame that signals the opening of these games carries much more than light and heat. It carries the Olympic Spirit that inspires athletic striving and excellence, strengthens friendships that bridge race, religion, and culture, and binds our family of nations.

This year, the Olympic spirit already has infected millions of Americans who turned out on Main Streets, in town squares, and on front porches, to cheer the Olympic torch on its way here. I felt that same spirit when I attended the Winter Games in Lillehammer, Norway two years ago, and then again at the ceremonies in Greece. But never have I felt the spirit as strongly as I do now, surrounded by this talented and dedicated group of American athletes and legends.

Each of you is a guardian of the Olympic spirit, whether you are multiple Gold medalists, veterans, or first-time Olympians. To the 100 Gold Medalists from earlier Olympics to the familiar

faces I see from Lillehammer who could join us today, thank you for the inspiration you have given and continue to give to millions of people of all ages, backgrounds, and stations in life all over our country.

To the athletes who will compete during these two weeks, I know that each of you has already overcome many challenges and won many contests on your way to Atlanta. America is proud of your magnificent achievements and grateful that you could represent us in these Games. I hope each of you, whether you win gold, silver, bronze, or no medals, will reach your personal best and continue to be models of hard work, personal responsibility, sportsmanship, and international fellowship.

Now, it is my great honor to introduce the person our national Olympic team has selected to carry the American flag at the opening ceremony. As most of you know, Bruce Baumgartner is one of the greatest wrestlers in American history. He is a four-time Olympian and comes to Atlanta having already won two gold medals, one silver medal, and the hearts of his teammates and our country. I am proud to introduce a great champion and a great American: Bruce Baumgartner.

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G. WAYNE CLOUGH, Ph.D.
President
Georgia Institute of Technology

In September, 1994, Dr. G. Wayne Clough became the tenth President of the Georgia Institute of Technology and the first alumnus to serve as president. Dr. Clough received his B.S. and M.S. in Civil Engineering from Georgia Tech in 1964 and 1965, respectively. He received his Ph.D. in 1969 from the University of California, Berkeley.

Dr. Clough has been a member of the faculty at Duke University, Stanford University, Virginia Tech, and the University of Washington. Clough was head of the Department of Civil Engineering at Virginia Tech from 1983-1990. Beginning in 1990, he served as Dean of Virginia Tech's College of Engineering, a position he held for three years. In 1993, he became the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of Washington, a position he held until he returned to his alma mater.

Dr. Clough's research interests lie in geotechnical engineering, including studies of earthquakes, numerical analysis, soil-structure interaction, in-situ testing, and underground openings. He has consulted with more than 70 firms and government agencies. Currently he chairs the Board of Consultants for San Francisco's Muni-Metro Project. Dr. Clough has published over 120 papers and reports and six book chapters and is the author of several widely used computer codes for geotechnical engineering.

Active in volunteer work, Clough serves on the Executive Committee of Central Atlanta Progress, The Atlanta Paralympic Organizing Committee Advisory Board, the Board of Trustees of the Georgia Research Alliance, the National Council on Competitiveness Board of Trustees, the National Commission for Cooperative Education, The Atlanta Cultural Ring Steering Committee, and the University Center of Georgia Board of Trustees.

Dr. Clough is the recipient of numerous awards and honors for teaching and research including the 1994 Karl Terzaghi Lectureship from the American Society of Civil Engineers and the 1986 George Westinghouse Award from the American Society of Engineering Education. He has eight additional national awards from the American Society of Civil Engineers including their oldest and most prestigious award received in 1982 and 1996, the Norman Medal. He was elected to the National Academy of Engineering in 1990.

wife: Anne Clough

June 1996

Clough is pronounced Cluff

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^{that signals the opening of these games.}
But ^{that} flame carries much more than light and heat. It carries the Olympic Spirit which inspires athletic striving and excellence, strengthens friendships that bridge race, religion, and culture, and binds our family of nations.

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Each of you ~~here~~ is a guardian of the Olympic spirit, whether you are multiple Gold medalists, veteran, or first-time Olympians. To the 100 Gold Medalists from some of ^{our} earliest ^{early} Olympics to the familiar faces from Lillehammer who could join us today, thank you for the inspiration you have given and continue to give to millions of people of all ages, backgrounds, and stations in life all over the world ^{in our country}.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE FIRST LADY

phone 202-456-6266 5640
fax 202-456-5709

TO Vicki Radd
FROM Jane Shih
FAX # 6-1213
PHONE #
OF PAGES (including cover) 3

COMMENTS

I can be reached at 6-5640. Here is a draft of First Lady's remarks. Lissa has already signed off on them.
I included ~~a ref~~ an acknowledgment of Americorps volunteers after Karin Abramson forwarded a request from Evelyn Lieberman. The Americorps volunteers won't be in the audience/gathering. Would it other volunteers feel snubbed?

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 21, 1996

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT,
THE VICE PRESIDENT, MRS. CLINTON AND MRS. GORE,
AND BILLY PAYNE, PRESIDENT AND CEO FOR
THE ATLANTA COMMITTEE FOR THE OLYMPIC GAMES
AT CEREMONY FOR THE DEPARTURE OF THE OLYMPIC TORCH

The South Lawn

7:39 A.M. EDT

MRS. CLINTON: Good morning, and welcome to the White House. The President, the Vice President, Mrs. Gore and I are very happy all of you could join us for this very special departure ceremony. I would like to welcome Billy and Martha Payne and other distinguished guests from the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games.

Also, Georgia Governor Zell Miller and his wife, Shirley, are here, and we want to say a special word of welcome and thanks to Donna and Mack McLarty, who have been working closely with Vice President Gore to coordinate the administration's activities in support of the 1996 Olympics and Paralympics.

We're also pleased we could be joined by members of Congress, the Cabinet, the White House Task Force on the Olympic and Paralympic Games, and also the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports, especially the Cochair, Tom McMillan, all of whom are with us this morning. We are also honored to have here today the ambassadors from nations that have hosted past summer olympic games.

I'd like to extend a special welcome and congratulations to the men and women who carried the torch here in the District, especially to the two runners who carried the torch to the White House last night: Dr. I. King Jordan, the President of Gallaudet University; and Sister Mary Poppett (phonetic). I'd also like to acknowledge Martin Begosh (phonetic.), who is here as well, as one of the torch bearers. There were community hero torchbearers that the President first introduced in his State of the Union Address many months ago: Lucius Wright (phonetic) of Jackson, Mississippi and Jennifer Rogers (phonetic) of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

And, finally, let us welcome some of the wonderful exemplars of excellence -- the former

and current olympians from the D.C. area. The U.S. Men's Soccer Team and this year's -- (applause) -- who are doing well, and this year's brilliant group of presidential scholars. (Applause.)

Some of you may remember that my daughter and I had the privilege of witnessing the lighting of this same flame almost three months ago in Olympia, Greece. It was the traditional ceremony set amid the ancient ruins of Olympia where the original games were held more than 2500 years ago. On that beautiful, sunny day in a place surrounded by olive, orange and lemon groves, it was very easy for us to feel the tradition, history and symbolism of the Olympic flame. This flame carries much more than light and heat, it carries the spirit of our family of nations, the legacy of friendships formed over centuries of olympic contests, and the hopes of the young men and women who will convene in Atlanta this summer. Through them, the Olympic spirit will only grow faster and higher and stronger, enabling all of us to renew bonds of international goodwill and understanding. That is the heart of the Olympic ideal that we honor here at the White House today.

Now, let me introduce to you a great friend of mine and a great athlete in her own right, Tipper Gore. (Applause.)

MRS. GORE: Thank you very much, Mrs. Clinton. I must admit that sharing in a part of this Olympic spirit has been one of the most -- greatest highlights of my life. I've really, really loved it and been moved at every point.

I had the privilege of greeting the torch when it arrived on American soil in Los Angeles, and I watched with pride as Rafer Johnson, a gold medalist in the decathlon in 1960 gallantly carried that torch through the streets of L.A., beginning its journey to the site of the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta. And this community of athletes has been summoned to compete next month because they have reached the peak of athletic excellence, and their abilities command our respect and they have earned our admiration, and they have ignited a very fierce pride in all of our hearts.

It's now my distinct honor to introduce to you the President and the CEO of the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games, the dynamic and energetic Mr. Billy Payne. Thank you. (Applause.)

MR. PAYNE: Mr. President, Mrs. Clinton, Mr. Vice President, Mrs. Gore, the country's best Governor, Zell Miller of Georgia, ladies and gentlemen. Along with the great honor that America has been given to organize these Centennial Games, so, too, do we feel an obligation -- an obligation to protect this flame, to respect its purity, to carry it high and to pass it on from torchbearer to torchbearer in a seemingly endless chain of humanity, moving ever closer to Atlanta, now turning south to Georgia and the opening ceremonies of the Centennial Games, and the thousands of men and women who are our Olympic torchbearers represent the very best of who we are as a nation. Whether famous or not, they are all community heroes as they demonstrate every single day of their life that unselfish service to others is the lifeblood

of this great country. And as we learn by the example each has set, we share with them the belief that in America, all is possible.

And so just as these torchbearers represent the best of our country, this Olympic flame represents the truest and the highest ideals of the Olympic movement, that in spite of our differences, we can assemble to celebrate that which we share in common. And in doing so, maybe -- just maybe -- find our lives so enriched that our differences are no longer our obsessions.

To you, Mr. President, Mr. Vice President, we extend our heartfelt thanks for your wonderful support of these Centennial Olympic Games.

And now, it is my distinct honor to introduce the gentleman who has chaired the administration's effort in support of the Games, the Vice President of the United States of America, the Honorable Al Gore. (Applause.)

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Billy, and thanks to all of the citizens of Atlanta and Georgia, and all Americans who have made it possible for our nation to host these Games. No matter where it travels in the world, the Olympic Torch is a powerful symbol of unity, hard work, and the burning desire for excellence.

This year, its final destination is Atlanta, and it has been making a remarkable journey to the Centennial Olympic Games. It was carried on a cable car through the hills of San Francisco, and in a jazz parade across the streets of New Orleans. It climbed the Rocky Mountains, drifted down the Mississippi River and circled Ellis Island in the shadow of the Statue of Liberty. It has traveled in railroad cars and with the Pony Express. It visited Memphis in May for the Sunset Symphony.

By the time it reaches Atlanta, it will have passed within two hours of the residences of 90 percent of our nation's population.

As Chair of President Clinton's White House Task Force on the Olympic and Paralympic Games, I'm intensely proud of all this torch symbolizes, as I am of all the hard work that this task force has done to ensure that these games are the best games ever. I want to thank my partner, Mack McLarty, and all those who have worked under the President's direction to help our nation ensure that these games are a spectacular success for America and for the world.

The Olympic Torch has been shooting out rays of hope and shining a light on everything that makes our country great. Today, the torch continues its journey now up this South Lawn. A community hero from our Nation's Capital, Lang Brown, along with 12 of the young people whose lives he has touched, will light the torch. (Applause.)

(The torch is lit.) (Applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. I want to begin by thanking Lang Brown, not only for what he has done this morning in bringing the torch up here, but for what he does every day. He gives his best to help troubled teenagers, to teach them how to live responsible lives and to know that they are not alone as they do their best.

Today, we honor that spirit -- the spirit of the Olympics, as we send forth the Olympic Torch to light the way to Atlanta. Thank you, Lang Brown. (Applause.)

This torch has seen more of America than most of us Americans will see in a lifetime, and much of America has seen the torch, cheered it, and the people bearing it. The torch, burning bright and strong, stands for the joy of athletic competition and more -- for the importance of international cooperation and more, for the pride we feel when our strong young Americans win the gold and more. For this Olympic flame also calls upon each of us to be our very best as individuals, to do our best to build strong families and strong communities and a strong country. It tells us that victory comes to the united, not to the divided. Every Olympian has reached within and worked hard to be the fastest, the strongest, the most graceful.

We all have hurdles to leap -- to finish high school or college, to be a good parent, a good worker, a good neighbor. Every one of us must summon that spirit of responsibility and best effort in our own lives. Every Olympian stands at the starting block or at the beginning of a great game alone. But they do not win alone. They draw strength from a lifetime of support from family and friends, coaches and role models. And every one of us must summon that spirit of community to meet our challenges.

Every Olympian is proof that for all of our differences, we are one America. We cheer our athletes not because they are men or women, not because of the color of their skin, we cheer them because they are Americans. They represent us all and they fill us with pride. And every one of us must summon that spirit of unity, to embrace those things that bind us together, and never to succumb to those things that would keep us apart.

My fellow Americans, in the last several months, we have had to deal with some different kinds of flames. But it is this flame that represents the best of the United States of America. (Applause.)

The Olympic spirit is the spirit of personal responsibility and best effort, the spirit of community, the spirit of unity. The people who carried this torch all across America show us exactly how that spirit can lift all our lives every day. This torch has been carried by a 74-year-old woman in Nevada who has cared for more than 100 abandoned children, by a New York businessman who has put thousands of disadvantaged young people through college, by a North Carolina teacher who organized students in 48 states against violence. This torch has been carried by America's best. They are everyday Olympians.

Now, this torch will be carried by someone who is America's best, who is both an everyday Olympian and a member of our Olympic team. Eight years ago, Carla McGhee was

in a car accident. She almost died. Her body was broken, but her spirit was whole. She fought her way back to a promising basketball career that most people thought had been lost forever. She went on to return to the University of Tennessee and to help her team win a national basketball championship. The Vice President is particularly proud of that achievement. (Laughter.) And now we hope that she will help to work the same magic for our Olympic women's team; a miraculous road back for a wonderful young woman. (Applause.)

May the Olympic flame always carry the ideals that burn in athletes and citizens like Carla McGhee, that burn in people like our torchbearers, the community heroes, the veterans of war and the keepers of peace, and all of those who have run with it, walked with it, wheeled with it, and set eyes on it. And may these ideals cast light on every shadow and brighten every dream on America's road to tomorrow.

May God bless America. And to Carla and all our Olympians, Godspeed. (Applause.)

END

7:58 A.M.

know that each of you has already overcome many challenges and won many contests on your way to Atlanta. America is proud of your magnificent achievements and grateful that you could represent us in these Games. I hope each of you, whether you win gold, silver, bronze, or no medals, will reach your personal best and continue to be models of hard work, personal responsibility, ~~and~~ sportsmanship, *and international fellowship.*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JULY 17, 1996

U.S. Olympic Team Captains Elect Wrestler Bruce Baumgartner to Carry Flag, Basketball's Teresa Edwards to Take Athletes' Oath in Opening Ceremonies

ATLANTA, GA. -- Two four-time Olympians were honored by their peers Wednesday night when the U.S. Olympic Team captains elected freestyle wrestler **Bruce Baumgartner** of Cambridge Springs, Pa., to carry the USA flag and basketball guard and Calro, Ga., native **Teresa Edwards** to take the athletes' oath at the Opening Ceremonies of the Centennial Olympic Games here on Friday, July 19.

The 35-year-old Baumgartner, one of this country's most decorated athletes, becomes the first American wrestler to have been selected as an Olympic flagbearer. Only the second American wrestler to have made four Olympic Teams, he has earned more Olympic and world championship medals than any other wrestler in U.S. history. He won gold medals at the 1984 and '92 Olympic Games and took home the silver in 1988 at 286 pounds (130 kg). He is a three-time world champion (1986, '93, '95) and has won nine world championship medals overall. He has also won the most World Cup gold medals (7) and Pan American Games medals (4) in U.S. history. A 17-time national champion, Baumgartner won the 1995 AAU James E. Sullivan Award, presented annually to the top amateur athlete in the United States.

"Being selected to serve as flagbearer is a great feeling," Baumgartner said. "I am honored that my peers would select me. This is a dream come true. I never expected this to happen ... that I would wrestle for so long and now to carry the flag in Opening Ceremonies of an Olympic Games in my home country."

Edwards, who now calls Atlanta home, is the first USA basketball player -- male or female -- to compete in four Olympic Games and will celebrate her 32nd birthday on July 19. Like Baumgartner, she will be aiming for her third Olympic gold medal. She was co-captain of the 1992 U.S. Olympic women's team that won the bronze medal in Barcelona and captured a gold medal in 1988 and '84. In 1984, she was the youngest member of the U.S. women's team at the Los Angeles Olympic Games and, in 1996, she is the oldest player on the U.S. women's basketball squad. "T" as she is known to her friends, won gold medals at both the 1990 and 1986 World Championships and Goodwill Games and was also a member of the USA's 1987 Pan American Games gold medal team. Edwards will be the second basketball player from a host country to take the athletes' oath on behalf of the participants. In 1988, basketball player Huh Jae joined team handball player Son Mi-na in taking the athletes' oath in Seoul.

At each Olympic Games -- winter and summer -- each country's team is preceded into the Olympic stadium by an athlete or delegation representative bearing the country's flag. The flagbearer for the U.S. Olympic Team is traditionally chosen by the fellow athletes or respective team captains. The practice of carrying in the nations' flags first began at the 1908 Olympic Games in London. As the host country, the United States delegation will march in as the last of the 197 participating nations in the Games of the XXVth Olympiad in Atlanta.

(more)

The Olympic Oath is a symbolic gesture of sportsmanship that began at the 1920 Olympic Games in Antwerp, Belgium. Basically, one athlete from the host country takes an oath in the Opening Ceremonies on behalf of all athletes, pledging to uphold the Olympic spirit of competition and fair play. It is also given by a judge from the host country with slightly different wording.

The oath is as follows: *"In the name of all competitors, I promise that we shall take part in these Olympic Games, respecting and abiding by the rules which govern them, in the true spirit of sportsmanship, for the glory of sport and the honor of our teams."*

Oathmakers are chosen by the host city's organizing committee or National Olympic Committee and are usually athletes from the host country.

An oathmaker for officials will also be selected to take a similar oath on behalf of all officials. That person will be announced sometime prior to the Opening Ceremonies, which begin at 8:30 p.m. (EDT) on Friday, July 19 in Olympic Stadium.

Here is a list of past U.S. flagbearers and Olympic Games oathmakers:

<u>Year</u>	<u>U.S. Flagbearer (Sport)</u>
1908	Ralph Rose (Athletics)
1912	George V. Bonhag (Athletics)
1920	Patrick J. McDonald (Athletics)
1924	Patrick J. McDonald (Athletics)
1928	Lemuel (Bud) C. Houser (Athletics)
1932*	F. Morgan Taylor (Athletics)
1936	Alfred A. Jochim (Gymnastics)
1948	Ralph C. Craig (Yachting)
1952	Norman C. Armitage (Fencing)
1956	Norman C. Armitage (Fencing)
	#Warren B. Wofford (Equestrian)
1960	Rafer L. Johnson (Athletics)
1964	William Parry O'Brien (Athletics)
1968	Janice Lee Romary (Fencing)
1972	Olga Fikotova Connolly (Athletics)
1976	Gary W. Hall (Swimming)
1980	USA did not attend
1984*	Edward Burke (Athletics)
1988	Evelyn Ashford (Athletics)
1992	Francie Larrieu Smith (Athletics)
1996	Bruce Baumgartner (Wrestling)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Oathmaker (Sport)</u>
1920	Victor Boln (Fencing)
1924	George Andrew (Athletics)
1928	Henri Denis (Soccer)
1932*	George Calnan (Fencing)
1936	Rudolf Ismayr (Weightlifting)
1948	Donald Finlay (Athletics)
1952	Heikki Savolainen (Gymnastics)
1956	John Landy (Athletics)
1960	Adolfo Consolini (Athletics)
1964	Takashi Ono (Gymnastics)
1968	Pablo Garrido (Athletics)
1972	Heidi Schuller (Athletics)
1976	Pierre St. Jean (Weightlifting)
1980	Nikolai Andrianov (Gymnastics)
1984*	Edwin Moses (Athletics)
1988	Huh Jae (Basketball)
	Son Mi-na (Team Handball)
1992	Luis Doreste
1996*	Teresa Edwards (Basketball)

#Due to Australia's Immigration laws for horses, the 1956 equestrian events were held separately in Stockholm.

*Denotes years U.S. hosted Olympic Games

For more information, contact the USA Media Service staff at (404) 547-8762 or 547-8770.

FOCUS - 5 OF 95 STORIES

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July 16, 1996, Tuesday, NASSAU AND SUFFOLK EDITION

SECTION: SPORTS; Page A52

LENGTH: 871 words

HEADLINE: OLYMPICS / COUNTDOWN TO ATLANTA / 3 DAYS TO GO /LONG, WINDING ROAD TO
GAMES / USOC CHIEF LEROY WALKER RETURNS HOME WITH HONOR

BYLINE: By John Jeanson. STAFF CORRESPONDENT

DATELINE: Atlanta

BODY:

Atlanta - Look who's The Man now. LeRoy Walker. Born in Atlanta, raised in Harlem. The grandson of slaves, the last of 13 siblings, but the first of them to go to college. Once a scholarship basketball player at South Carolina's all-black Benedict College, much later a golfing partner of Michael Jordan. Once a track and field coach at Texas' Prairie View College, because northern white schools wouldn't hire him, now a member of 14 halls of fame.

Friday night, when the home team marches into Atlanta's Olympic Stadium to open the Centennial Games, LeRoy Walker, 77, will march in the lead as president of the U.S. Olympic Committee. It's as if all the hard knocks and disappointments were just spicy sauces in which Walker marinated for all these years, making this moment so tasty. "I've been around for 15 Olympic Games, winter and summer," Walker said. "For a native of Atlanta, from the other side of the track, to lead that group into the Olympics, it'll be a distinct honor."

From track coach at North Carolina Central University in Durham, Walker eventually became the school's chancellor. He coached the Olympic track teams of five countries - Israel, Ethiopia, Trinidad & Tobago, Jamaica and Kenya - before he was named head coach of his own nation's team in 1976, the first African-American in that job.

He was the first black president of his sport's national governing body, now known as USA Track & Field. Four years ago, he became the first black president of the USOC. "I once asked him how many honorary degrees he has," said John Krinsky, the USOC's marketing whiz. "All the doctorates of arts and letters and law. I don't think he knows."

What he knows is that being "the first black" this-or-that is fine because he is convinced he won it on merit. What he believes is that "if you keep doing your task well, there are enough fair-minded people who will say, He can do it. He should have the job." "

Walker's measured, sometimes meandering chats clearly are southern, friendly

and hospitable, almost as a setup to get his point across. "LeRoy portrays a personality of being very cool and understanding and pleasant," said Stan Wright, the former U.S. Olympic coach who has known Walker since both were going to college in New York in the 1940s. "And he is. But deep down, he's a tough guy."

"He's so disarmingly honest," Krinsky said, "that what he says, he says with such conviction that nobody will challenge him."

At the 1992 Olympics, Walker, then head of the U.S. delegation in Barcelona, criticized the so-called Dream Team for isolating itself in luxurious hotels, away from the common folks in the Olympic Village. In welcoming the return of South Africa to the Olympics, after years of ostracization because of that country's apartheid policies, Walker reminded that "anyone who doesn't think the Olympics are political, I've got some beachfront land I can sell them in Arizona."

That Walker exudes comfort whether mixing with presidents or jocks tends to trivialize a soaring life story. His father was a fireman for the Georgia Southern Railroad who died when Walker was 9, so his mother sent him to New York City to live with his 34-year-old brother Joe, with the instructions: "If anything gets in your way, look it in the eye, grab hold of it and find a way to achieve in spite of it."

His brother ran a window-cleaning business and three barbecue restaurants, where LeRoy made enough money while putting himself through college that his mother wrote him for money. On the side, he worked as valet for a jazz band, watching Duke Ellington up close at the Cotton Club. His brother added to his eclectic upbringing by taking him to the opera.

"I didn't understand one word they were saying," Walker said. But it spurred an interest in language; he learned French and German in undergraduate school, then earned a master's at Columbia and a doctorate at NYU. Originally interested in medicine, he ended up in physical education and went south to coach. Institutional racism put him on a track through small, all-black schools, but it hardly stopped his progress.

His son, LeRoy Jr., marveled so often at his intelligence that Walker would kid, "I'll have you understand that your grandmother drowned all of her dumb children."

By the time Atlanta won its bid to host these Games, Walker was serving as \$100,000-a-year vice president and director of sports with the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games. But when he was named USOC president in early 1993, he traded that job for his present one, which pays absolutely nothing.

LeRoy Jr. asked, "You're going to give up six figures to do a volunteer job?"

"Yeh. Some things are important enough that you want to do them without regard to money."

"I think," his son said, "Grandma missed one."

And here's another self-deprecating story Walker likes to tell on himself,

about his days coaching in Africa when he would tell his charges to run to "that hill over there and back." The hill actually was a mountain, some 15 miles away, and Walker said he couldn't understand why they seemed so tired when they returned.

More amazing: After all he's been through, why doesn't Walker seem tired?

GRAPHIC: 1) Photo-LeRoy Walker. 2) AP Photo-FINISHING TOUCHES. With the opening ceremonies three days away, workers paint the Atlanta Olympic logo on the wall of Olympic Stadium.

LANGUAGE: English

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FOCUS - 22 OF 95 STORIES

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The Herald-Sun (Durham, N.C.)

July 13, 1996, Saturday

SECTION: Sports; Pg. D1;

LENGTH: 4395 words

HEADLINE: DR. LEROY WALKER A man of OLYMPIC proportions 'The littlest Walker' makes it big Walker's journey has taken him around the world and back

BYLINE: Tim Peeler

BODY:

Walker's journey has taken him around the world and back when Dr. LeRoy Walker leads the U.S. Olympic Team in the opening ceremonies of the Atlanta Centennial Olympics Friday night, it will complete his own glorious Olympic Ring.

From a humble beginning on Atlanta's Parson Street, near the campus of Morehouse College, through a career in athletics that has spanned nearly eight decades, Walker will reach the height of his lifetime of achievements as he leads into the stadium the biggest contingent at the largest sporting event in history.

His story is the stuff of dime novels and Sunday school lessons.

"If you tried to sell this story to Hollywood, they'd think you had been smoking something," Walker said, laughing.

But every word - from coaching at Durham's tiny North Carolina Central College in turbulent racial times to his success with six different Olympic teams to his many labors for the United States Olympic Committee - is true.

It is an inspiring story: leaving Atlanta at the age of 9 after the death of his father to live and work for his brother Joe in Harlem during the Great Depression; missing out on his dream to become a surgeon but choosing to be a coach because "it is the next best thing for working with people"; spending his professional life coaching and teaching young people to aspire to greater things.

Walker always has given credit for his remarkable list of achievements - he has more honors and decorations than the White House Christmas tree - to his strong family background, frequently recalling orders his mother gave him when he was a child.

"LeRoy, you do the task that is before you the very best you can," she told him. "You don't do it looking for reward and you don't do it thinking about what it will lead to. It is the task before you that you have to do the very best you can do."

She was not an educated woman, but Walker - three college degrees, 11

honorary degrees and 17 halls of fame later - still is obeying her words.

Humble beginnings

LeRoy Trasheau Walker was born in Atlanta on June 14 -Flag Day - 1918, the youngest of 13 children. He spent his first nine years under the watchful and didactic eye of his mother, Mary Ann Sally Jane Martha Elizabeth Thomas Walker.

"The Littlest Walker," as he has been called, had many sisters and sisters-in-law who were about the same age as most kids' parents. In fact, his brother Joe, 25 years his senior, had a son who was about Walker's age and they were inseparable. They spent so much time together, LeRoy began calling his sister-in-law Susie "Mama" and his own mother - as if she didn't already have enough names - "Big Mama."

The name fit, because Mrs. Walker was the enforcer in the family, especially after her husband, Willie, a railroad fireman, died in 1927.

"I used to admire how she could control the family," Walker said. "She could say more by just moving her eyes around than by speaking to me. I can still hear her now, clearing her throat to get my attention. There was no yelling or screaming. She would just give you one of those stares, and that was it."

She likely gave him one of those stares when he mentioned playing football at Benedict College in Columbia, S.C., where he had earned a basketball scholarship after leading Atlanta's Booker T. Washington High School to the state championship. Fearful he would be injured, she didn't want her son to play football.

So he didn't tell her of his All-American career as Benedict's quarterback.

She never knew until the day he became the first member of his family to graduate from college, when his long list of athletic accomplishments (a total of 12 letters in three sports) was read during commencement. All she knew was that "The Littlest Walker" had graduated in 3 1/2 years, a remarkable achievement considering his extensive involvement in sports.

For much of his childhood, Walker lived with Joe and Susie in Harlem, where Joe owned a window-cleaning service and three barbecue restaurants, which were frequented by boxer Sugar Ray Robinson. During the summers, LeRoy worked for Joe and even served as a valet to big band director Jimmy Lunsford.

LeRoy was driven hard by Joe, who taught him an incredible work ethic. Looking back, it was an upbringing Walker treasures.

"The more I think about what they all did for me and what I have learned, I appreciate it even more now," Walker said.

Ever since he won his first race -- speed skating in Central Park -- Walker has been married to athletics. He lettered four times each in football, basketball and track at Benedict College and was an All-American his junior year.

Sports, he said, are a perfect developer of character. Often he quotes the

words of Gen. Douglas MacArthur, one of his predecessors as USOC president, that are etched above the fieldhouse at West Point: "On the fields of friendly strife are sown the seeds that on other fields in other years will bear the fruits of victory."

Walker's seeds were sown and nurtured by a strong family, yet he was taught as a child by "Big Mama" not to be overly ambitious.

"The step above has never been in the plan," Walker said.

He has followed those words in every task he has undertaken since college.

"When I was living in New York, there were times I didn't think I would ever get below South Ferry," Walker said. "I never thought I would be on every continent of the world or visit how many hundreds of major cities or coach four or five Olympic teams."

Walker is an example of how one may end up in amazing places if he doesn't spend too much time worrying about where he's going.

Career born of impatience

Except for bad timing, LeRoy Walker likely would be a retired surgeon today. He wanted desperately to go to medical school, which was actually a disappointment to "Big Mama," who wanted "The Littlest Walker" to be a pianist.

However, only two colleges in the country accepted black students in medical school, and Walker's early departure from Benedict left him with a year-and-a-half wait to enter Howard University's Medical School.

So he decided to try his hand at coaching.

After one-year stints at Benedict and Bishop colleges during World War II, Walker went to Prairie View College in Texas in 1943 as a teacher, coach and officer in an Army Specialized Training Program.

He came to N.C. Central in 1945 for a one-year visit to coach football and basketball, but he ended up staying. He thought it was necessary to develop a track program as an off-season training regimen for his football and basketball players, even though Central did not, technically speaking, have a track.

As the oft-told story goes, Walker approached Duke coach Bob Chambers about having Central's athletes work out with Duke's.

"If I ask," Chambers said, "they'll just say no. But if we just go ahead and do it, someday they will be proud of it."

Ten years later, having given up his positions as football and basketball coach to concentrate on track, Walker went with Central's Lee Calhoun and Duke's Joel Shankle and David Sime to his first Olympic Games in Melbourne, Australia. Calhoun, the only back-to-back gold medalist in the 110 hurdles, was the first of a long line of Walker's Olympians. N.C. Central athletes were on every Olympic team from 1956-80.

Walker never has regretted his decision to coach. Looking back on it, he's kind of glad he never made it to medical school, even though he did find a long career in the "City of Medicine."

"There were about four of us who were going to have to wait to get into medical school," said Walker, the only one of the group too impatient for medicine. "I still get together with them, and they are all wealthy and have homes in Florida. I just don't think I would have ever enjoyed it as much.

"That's what they tell me. They all have servants and money coming out of their ears, but when we get together all they want to do is sit down and hear all about what I do. I don't think I have changed my attitude about wanting to serve people, but it is hard to imagine that I would have had as much enjoyment, and I would have been to as many places and met the great diversity of people if I had been a physician."

He succeeded in the profession as few others have, coaching 83 All-Americans, 40 national champions and 12 U.S. Olympians. His athletes set eight national and world records.

Yet his impact was much greater than the value of all the medals, all the trophies his athletes ever won.

"What made him special as a coach," said sprinter Edwin Roberts, an N.C. Central star who competed for Trinidad & Tobago in the 1964, '68 and '72 Olympics, "is that he would take the initiative with his athletes to work with them not only as a coach but to guide them to be good citizens of the community and of their country. His emphasis was education. It was also that if you wanted to succeed in life, you had to put out 100 percent.

"To me, he was like a father -- and a brother and a sister, all put together. Today, all my achievements are through him."

Roberts, who began his post-college work in marketing with the United Nations, now is a teacher and track coach in Philadelphia.

Walker excelled in coaching, producing 83 All-Americans, 40 national champions and eight Olympians at N.C. Central alone. He coached six different Olympic track teams, beginning with a dual role in the 1960 Rome Olympics as the head coach for both the Israeli and Ethiopian national teams.

In 1959, he spent a summer as a educational specialist in the U.S. Department of State's Cultural Exchange Program, going to Ethiopia, Israel, Syria and Lebanon. While working in Ethiopia, the small, African country that still was developing its Olympic involvement, officials noticed on his visa that Walker also was a track coach, and they asked him to work with some of their athletes. When he went to Israel, the same thing happened.

By the next summer, both countries asked that Walker return for another stint, though it was not generally permitted by the State Department. He returned and was named head track coach for both countries, though that task may not be as daunting as it sounds. Ethiopia sent a total of nine people to the Rome Olympics, Israel 23.

But out of that small contingent, Walker coached his first gold medalist. Barefooted marathoner Abebe Bikila, still considered one of the greatest distance runners in Olympic history, won the gold in both 1960 and '64. Ironically, Walker made his name as a track coach by using applied physics to help increase speed for his sprinters, hurdlers and relay teams.

In 1964 Walker was asked to consult the Trinidad & Tobago Olympic team, mainly because of his relationship with Roberts. From there, Walker's help on the international level grew. He was a consultant for the Jamaica team in 1968 in Mexico City and the Kenya team in 1972 in Munich.

The zenith of his coaching career was at the 1976 Montreal Games, where his U.S. Track and Field team won 19 medals including six golds. Two of those golds were won in world-record performances, by Edwin Moses in the 400 hurdles and Bruce Jenner in the decathlon.

"Finally, after about five countries, America felt I had done enough internships," Walker said.

The 1976 Games were somewhat disappointing because the United States failed to medal in the 100 meters for the first time since 1928, and injury-plagued N.C. Central star Charles Foster finished fourth in the 110 hurdles, losing to gold medalist Guy Drut of France for the first time in 10 races.

Following those Games, Walker shifted from coaching to administration. After nearly three decades as chairman of Central's department of physical education and recreation, he had become vice chancellor of university relations in 1974. By 1983, when the university needed a new chancellor, he was elevated to that position.

His career has been rewarding on many levels, and he's had many opportunities to reflect on those accomplishments in the last year.

He remembers a time several years ago, while at the Penn Relays, when someone asked him about his greatest rewards in his career. It so happened Walker was in the middle of an annual reunion with many of his former athletes.

"They all introduced themselves, and they were lawyers and they were doctors and they were politicians and they were good citizens in the community. I told the guy, 'You just heard the answer.' "

Durham reaps rewards

Walker has brought several major track meets to Durham, beginning in 1971 with the Pan Africa-USA Meet. He followed that with the Martin Luther King Games in Durham in 1973, and the USSR-USA meet in 1974.

He continues to share his international experiences with his adopted hometown, as he and Duke coach Al Buehler present today's Gold Rush at Duke University at Wallace Wade Stadium, a large pre-Olympic track meet featuring Olympic athletes from the United States and about 40 other nations.

In the last 25 years, Walker and Buehler have been associated with nearly a dozen major track meets at Wallace Wade Stadium, including the 1987 U.S. Olympic

Festival and the 1990 NCAA Track and Field Championships. Twice Walker led the effort to bring the U.S. track and field trials to Durham, losing out to Eugene, Ore., in 1980 and to New Orleans in 1992.

He was the chairman of the '87 U.S. Olympic Festival, a three-week event for the nation's top athletes held in the Triangle.

In 1992, when he gave up his job with the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games to become USOC president, it was assumed he would move to Colorado Springs, Colo., the USOC's home. He was, after all, retired and mobile.

But he refused, setting up his own office, with its own staff, here in Durham at the Meridian Business Campus. From there, he's conducted much of the business of organizing the USOC's efforts -- from world-wide video conferences to responding to the hundreds of calls he gets at the office every month.

"This is home," Walker said. "I wanted to stay here."

And he wanted to share his Olympic experiences with Durham, from the torch run -- which came to the front door of the LeRoy T. Walker Building on N.C. Central's campus, through downtown and onto the Duke campus -- to the Gold Rush, which is expected to draw 15,000 to 20,000 spectators to catch a glimpse of Olympic-like competition.

Calm in the midst of storm

In 1991, the U.S. Olympic Committee was in disarray, rife with turmoil and controversy. At the center of the entire mess was USOC president Robert H. Helmick, who was eventually forced to resign because of the cozy relationship between his law firm and various arms of the USOC.

William Hybl was appointed to serve the remainder of Helmick's term, and as his year in office drew to a close, the USOC was at a critical crossroads with the Atlanta Olympics -- already being billed by ACOG president Billy Payne as the "greatest Olympics of all time" -- on the cloudy horizon.

When the search for Hybl's replacement began in earnest, there were some demanding criteria for any candidate who would lead the U.S. Team in the 22nd Summer Games.

"Every time we punched in the information about what we wanted in every area, LeRoy's name came up," USOC public information and media relations director Mike Moran said. "He was the perfect candidate."

Walker, began his work with the USOC in 1977 while vice chancellor at NCCU. He worked his way up the ladder, chairing just about every major committee in the organization.

He paved his way to the presidency by serving a four-year term as treasurer (1989-92, leaving a \$ 57 million surplus in the coffers) and as the Chef de Mission for the U.S. Olympic team in Barcelona in 1992, a massive organizational undertaking.

He was a ground-breaking candidate, since no minority person had held the

position. But that, everyone insists, was not the point.

"It is an aside that he is the first African-American to hold the position," Moran said. "That is incidental. This is a man who is respected by every part of the public we deal with: the sports federations, the media, the athletes and the general public. His scorecard over his decades of service is an 'A' in every area."

Walker ran unopposed and was elected unanimously on Oct. 11, 1992, to serve a four-year term as president. His term ends in October.

"We needed four years of tranquility, and we needed someone with solid leadership, an impeccable record and a touch of class," Moran said. "He has brought dignity back to the office."

Redefining 'tireless'

Walker also brought a long agenda to the position, which in years past had been more of a figurehead in an organization run by an executive director and overseen by a board of directors.

He has done much more than preside over the messes that keep flaring up on the fields of friendly strife. As chef of mission at Barcelona, he had to deal with the Dream Team gold medal flap, when the first team of professional players almost didn't accept their gold medals because of conflicting endorsements. There was the Nancy Kerrigan-Tonya Harding ordeal in 1994, and more recently and more tragically, the shooting death of wrestler Dave Schultz by long-time wrestling supporter John Du Pont.

Walker has traveled the world, tirelessly promoting the Games and the USOC. He has burned a trail from here to Atlanta, where he maintains an office at ACOG's headquarters.

"His energy level is frightening," Moran said. "Most of the people half his age can't do what he has done."

His schedule during the last six months could have exhausted a team of horses, let alone one man. In June he spoke at Princeton's commencement, the USOC Executive Committee, a Dream Team news conference and the Associated Press Sports Editors Convention; played in the USOC Golf Classic, attended a Special Olympics meeting, a USOC Youth Leadership Seminar and the U.S. Track and Field Trials in Atlanta, accepted the Pathfinder Award in Indianapolis and went back to Atlanta for an ACOG Board meeting.

In the last year, he's made five trips abroad, including one to Greece for the re-enactment of the first Modern Olympic Games. He's made three commencement addresses, served as the honorary starter for the Penn Relays, accepted the Olympic Flame upon its arrival from Greece and carried the Olympic torch on the N.C. Central campus.

"I can't even remember the last day I had off," said Walker, whose last mini-vacation was a three-day trip to the Caribbean at Thanksgiving.

To tell the truth, he's having a ball. He and his son, LeRoy Jr., have made

several working trips together over the last year and relaxed by taking in the World Series, the Fiesta Bowl, the Super Bowl and a fistful of ACC basketball games.

Still, this is work, and Walker has spent his time as president getting things done.

He pushed through legislation in the most recent USOC board of directors meeting in San Diego to institute a code of conduct and out-of-competition drug testing to help combat the doping problem that has hounded international athletics.

Most recently, he lobbied the IOC -- successfully, of course -- to recognize all finalists in the Olympic Games, not just the three medal winners. He wanted them all to be honored at the stand during these Olympics, but that proved too difficult. In most cases, the fourth-place athlete is too hard to find. So the compromise he reached with ACOG and the IOC is to have the names of all finalists posted on the scoreboard during the medal ceremony, a move that has tickled both athletes and coaches.

Much of his work has been for the benefit of the athletes. More money from every dollar spent by the USOC goes for athletes and training than ever before.

"He's always been an athlete's president," Moran said.

That will likely show up on the field of competition, beginning next week, when the U.S. is expected to haul home a ton or so of precious medal. Having the hometown advantage plays a big part in that, but so does having a former Olympic coach in the USOC's highest position.

Walker has guided the USOC through turbulent times, quickly hiring a replacement for executive director Harvey Schiller, whose departure last year could have proven disastrous.

"It's going to be a hard act to follow," Moran said.

If not impossible.

'Excellence without excuse'

On an elevated train LeRoy Walker took to school every day, there was a drunk, sullen man who scared the passengers. He was black.

His actions would nauseate Walker, and whenever he saw the man, he would take off for another car, not wanting to somehow be lumped together with this man's disgusting, disgraceful behavior.

One day, however, Walker decided to stop running.

"Why should I move?" thought Walker, a clean-cut figure clearly on his way to school. "Anybody who looks at him and looks at me and thinks we are not different, then they are just stupid. Why should I leave my seat?"

Growing up in New York, Walker learned valuable lessons in tolerance among

diverse peoples, lessons that have guided him ever since.

He doesn't talk much about his experiences with racism, though he, like the millions of other blacks who lived through segregation and the fierce battles to end it, knows it all too well. He's driven hundreds of miles out of his way to find a restaurant that would serve him and his teams or a hotel that would board them. He has vivid memories of the racial tension that filled the air during the turbulent '60s.

"I learned to deal with them and put them behind me," Walker said. "I would not allow them to determine what I could be. I don't know whether it gave me motivation or what, but it was like Joe had told many before: 'You look at things and you deal with them.' "

He is not bitter about any of those experiences. During his travels he learned how to overcome those people who wanted to hold him back.

"My mother always told me not to let the environment affect you," Walker said. "I was born in a safe little neighborhood. We were probably a poor family, and we may have lived in a ghetto, if that word had been coined yet. But we kept our neighborhood clean and we were disciplined people. We were compassionate about people in our community.

"She always told me that I should never let the environment affect what I could become. She said, 'What you become is dependent upon how much you want to be good at what you do.' So one of my themes while I was at the university was 'Excellence without Excuse.' "

Neither "Big Mama" nor Joe would ever let young LeRoy make excuses, and that philosophy has stuck throughout his life.

"I don't know how many of the many things you learn as a child stay with you, but certain things come out forever," Walker said.

At first, when everyone was making a big deal about him being the first black man to head the USOC, Walker balked at the attention. These are supposed to be "more enlightened" times, and his election to the post certainly was no gift. He worked his way up the ladder for decades, chaired every major committee, was an elected officer, headed a national governing body, accomplished more in athletics than any other person who has held this post.

As Moran said, Walker's race is incidental.

"This is not a token appointment," Walker said. "It is based on merit. I don't have any self-consciousness about people saying I got this job because I was black or because I was a minority. I got it because I was the best person for the job. That is why it was a unanimous decision."

As he thought more about it, however, he decided it was good that he is introduced as the first black president of the USOC, because he has no qualms about his life and accomplishments setting an example for young people of every race.

"I want the young minority [person] out there, whether it is a Hispanic or

black or otherwise, to know that in this day and society, if you do things well and you are being effective, there are enough fair-minded people in the world to recognize that and push you do the next level," Walker said.

That's why he followed his mother's advice. He has had faith that people will recognize the quality of his work and not the color of his skin.

Legacies are important to Walker, and he'd like his accomplishments in the face of segregation, racism and all other less enlightened obstacles to be his legacy, not only in the world of athletics but also in the fields of education and administration. He unabashedly claims the title of role model, a direct slap at the Charles Barkleys of the world who don't want to accept that responsibility.

"I ran into Charles at the Fiesta Bowl, and I told him that you can't tell somebody not to use me as a role model," Walker said. "You don't get to make that choice."

Culmination of a lifetime's work

Dr. LeRoy Walker isn't sure how he will feel when he leads the U.S. Team into the Centennial Olympic Stadium. Frankly, he's tried to push all thoughts about Friday night out of his mind.

"It's going to be a strange feeling," Walker said. "I don't want to think about it, because I don't want to get too excited. But to lead that team in . . ."

If only "Big Mama" could see him now. Those eyes, the ones that could bring this strong, unstoppable man to his knees, would be gleaming with pride.

"She would have been very proud of me as an individual representing her," he said. "That influence has lasted this long, more than half a century. I think she would have been very proud."

Walker regrets that his late wife, Katherine -- who died on Easter 1979 -- won't be in Atlanta with him, to share in the culmination of his life's work.

"She spent so much time and dedication. . . . There are so many things I wish she could be here to share," Walker said. "She was there in Montreal, and she did enjoy that so much."

"And then she passed two years later."

But Friday will be a happy time, with Walker beaming even brighter than he did two weeks ago when he carried the Olympic Torch on Central's campus, then watched joyously as long-time friend Al Buehler paraded the torch to the steps of Duke Chapel.

"This is the culmination," Walker said then. "This is the top."

Maybe Hollywood should look into this.

GRAPHIC: Graphic: The LeRoy Walker File: FULL NAME: LeRoy Trasheau Walker BORN: June 14, 1918 FAMILY: Married Katherine McDowell in 1939. Widowed since Easter Sunday, 1979. Two children, three grandchildren, one great-grandson. CURRENT POSITIONS: President of U.S. Olympic Committee (1992-96), Chancellor emeritus of N.C. Central since 1986. EDUCATION: Benedict College '40 (Bachelor of Arts); Columbia University '41 (Master of Science); New York University '57 (Ph.D., Physical Education).

Other noteworthy accomplishments *Has received 11 honorary degrees *Member of 16 halls of fame, including North Carolina Sports, NAIA and U.S. Olympic *Has worked in past 10 Olympics in various capacities as a coach, chairman of committees, consultant and as a member of USA Track & Field board of directors.

Photo: Peter Schumacher, no cutline

Photo: WALT UNKS, WATCHFUL EYE: Dr. LeRoy Walker (back) talks to Joan Nesbit (left) and Allen Johnson before a 1994 press conference for the USA-Pan Africa Invitational in Durham

LOAD-DATE: July 15, 1996

FOCUS - 78 OF 95 STORIES

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HEADLINE: Walker a busy man Cross-country trips commonplace for USOC president

BYLINE: TIM PEELER The Herald-Sun

BODY:

ATLANTA -- When LeRoy Walker accepted the volunteer position as president of the U.S. Olympic Committee, he knew there would be a slew of responsibilities and commitments leading up to the Centennial Olympic Games in Atlanta in July.

But his recent schedule has turned this Walker into a full-fledged sprinter.

That's nothing new for the former track coach and world-renowned athletics administrator from Durham, but it's no less grueling for the 77-year-old Walker.

And things are only getting more hectic with the Olympics less than 90 days away. Walker's travels will reach some sort of a climax during the next week, as he darts from here, where he addressed some 400 members of the media during the four-day Olympic Summit Thursday morning, to Philadelphia on Friday, where he will serve as the honorary referee at the Penn Relays with New York Yankees owner George Steinbrenner, to Los Angeles on Saturday morning, where he will accept the Olympic flame from ACOG president and CEO Billy Payne in a nationally televised ceremony at 8 a.m.

After those festivities draw to a close Saturday evening, Walker will catch a plane back to the East Coast in time for a breakfast speech to the Hartford, Conn., Chamber of Commerce. Then, after a half-day back home and at his Durham USOC office, he heads to Washington for another Olympic-related convention that will culminate with a dinner at the White House with President Clinton.

Could your grandfather do all this?

Actually, that is only about half of Walker's schedule since April 16, when he came to Atlanta to participate in the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance convention.

After a Thursday morning breakfast speech at that meeting, he flew home just long enough for a haircut and a press conference with Governor Jim Hunt. Then he jumped on a helicopter and was flown to Charlotte, where he attended the dedication for the Ike Belk Track and Field Stadium at UNC Charlotte. Following that, he hopped on a 5 p.m. flight back to Atlanta so he could participate in two functions at the AAHPERD conventions.

He stayed put in Atlanta for two days, then went to Palm Beach, Fla., to meet

with Steinbrenner, a USOC vice president. During his free time there, Walker went to the PGA Seniors golf tournament on Sunday, to a Florida Marlins baseball game on Monday and then to a Florida Panthers hockey game on Tuesday. Then he headed back to Atlanta to join the national Olympic press corps for a reception hosted by Coca-Cola Wednesday night.

Anyone younger than 77 might wonder where Walker gets his endless energy to make these journeys, and Walker admits that it's tough.

"If it were not for the fact that I enjoy so much what I do when I get there, it would all be even worse," said Walker, as he changed clothes, packed his bags and double-checked his posh hotel room in downtown Atlanta for left-behind items before heading to his second home: Hartsville International Airport. "It's not easy. It's something you have a good feeling for because of the enjoyment of the program when you get there. If it were not for that, I tell you, I'd throw in the towel."

Now, some of the events Walker attends, like the Penn Relays, are of his own doing and not at all associated with the Olympics. But he had been official referee of the event for the last two decades and didn't want to pass on this year's event just because he has responsibilities with the Olympics.

He didn't know when he accepted the honorary referee position that the relays would coincide with the arrival of the Olympic flame 3,000 miles away and that he would be expected to be there so Payne could pass the torch to Walker, who would then pass it to the first runner for the flame's 15,000-mile cross-country trip to the Olympic Stadium in Atlanta.

"How do you lose an opportunity like that?" Walker said. "It's sort of a culmination of all the stuff I have tried to do over the years and to be able to say to the people of North Carolina that I am doing this to represent you for all the things you have helped us accomplish here in North Carolina. I couldn't say no to that."

Still, the travel is grueling, without even taking into account Walker's age. Walker insists he's the picture of health, religiously making his one trip to the doctor a year for his annual checkup, whether he needs it or not.

He takes care of himself by passing up as many late-night activities as he can and trying to get a full night's rest. But since his body rarely knows what time-zone it is in, sometimes that is difficult.

"You just hope that your body will be kind to you and permit you to do the next day's work," Walker said.

Just in case you are looking for an after dinner speaker for a local function: Walker is not accepting any more invitations to speak, receive awards or accept lit torches until Aug. 5, the day after the summer Olympics end.

GRAPHIC: PHOTO: WALKER

LOAD-DATE: April 26, 1996

FOCUS - 63 OF 95 STORIES

Copyright 1996 The Durham Herald Co.
The Herald-Sun (Durham, N.C.)

June 23, 1996, Sunday

SECTION: Front; Pg. A1;

LENGTH: 939 words

HEADLINE: Olympic chief to carry torch, 40 years of work Walker's Olympic
stint ends with 10th trip to Games

BYLINE: TIM PEELER The Herald-Sun

BODY:

RALEIGH -- LeRoy Walker will make only a few strides in the 1996 Olympic Torch Relay this morning, but each step carries with it the weight of 40 years of Olympic coaching and administrative experience.

Durham's most influential sports figure, whose term as president of the United States Olympic Committee will end at the closing of the Centennial Olympic Games in Atlanta next month, hopes to share some of the excitement and atmosphere he has experienced during his nine previous trips to the Olympics as a coach and official.

"There are many people who will be able to gain a real good feeling about what the Olympic movement is about," said Walker, who first worked the Olympics in 1956 in Melbourne, Australia. "It will be a special thing for this community."

The 78-year-old Walker will receive the torch from two-time Olympian Charles Foster, one of his former pupils, and run the flame -- very slowly, he says -- down a sidewalk that leads right up to the LeRoy T. Walker Athletic Complex at North Carolina Central University, where the Atlanta native rose to national prominence as a track coach and later presided over as interim chancellor.

Bearers of the flame

He will hand the flame off to a handful of former Olympians, including his longtime friend Al Buehler, who has guided Duke's track program since 1966 and who served as a manager for four Olympic teams.

Other former Olympians who will be there during the celebration from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. on the Central campus are former North Carolina basketball great Phil Ford, three-time Olympian and former Central track star Edwin Roberts and bobsledder Randy Jones.

"It will be very special," Walker said of his few strides on the 1996 Olympic Torch Relay. "I am so glad I convinced the torch relay planners to come to Durham, and to the Central campus, because this is where my roots are.

"The torch doesn't stop in many places. But it is going to stop here so I can

share the glory of its journey with the people on whose shoulders I have stood all of these years. It will be very special."

One of those people is Buehler, who, like his predecessor Bob Chambers, forged a friendship with Walker during the '60s when they were the respective track coaches at Duke and N.C. Central.

Their teams often practiced together during those days of racial tension.

"I have always believed in the axiom 'Lead and succeed on the efforts of others,' " Walker said Saturday afternoon, as he prepared to give an hourlong presentation at the North Carolina History Museum. "Some of those others, like Al Buehler, will be there carry the torch on Sunday."

On track

The two coaches have brought numerous international track meets to Durham in the last two decades beginning with the Pan-Africa Meet in 1971 and the USA vs. the USSR meet in 1972.

Their next collaboration is the Goldrush at Duke University on July 13 at Wallace Wade Stadium, the last major track meet with international competitors before the start of the Centennial Olympic Games a week later.

Buehler will not only hold the torch at Central, he will carry the torch later in the day down Chapel Drive in front of the Duke Chapel, where he will be greeted by the congregation of the church.

The torch entered the state Saturday afternoon from Richmond and arrived in Raleigh late last night, at a street festival at Fayetteville Street Mall in downtown Raleigh.

Walker was there when the torch arrived, but, as has been the case for the last several months, he was a million other places too.

He gave his presentation at the museum and stayed around for a reception at the History Museum, hopped over to Durham to attend a banquet honoring today's torchbearers in Durham, then went back to Raleigh to watch the flame he accepted into the country nearly two months ago arrive in his adoptive state's capital.

Torch run

The torch was to leave Raleigh at 6:30 a.m. today, heading down Highway 54 to Durham, and before the day is over it will work its way through Chapel Hill, Carrboro and Graham on to Greensboro, its final destination of the day. One of the torch bearers in Greensboro will be Durham resident Don Paige, who was a member of the 1980 Olympic team that boycotted the Moscow Olympics.

The flame will be carried by many specially selected local heroes on its 105.2-mile journey from the capital city to Greensboro, but the highlight of today's travels, however, will be when Walker, the grandson of slaves who devoted his life to athletics and is now one of the more powerful sports figures in the world, addresses the crowd at Central.

"I think it is going to be very impressive," Walker said.

Walker was actually the first person to touch the Olympic torch, which was lit by sunlight at the ancient coliseum in Ancient Olympia, on American soil after it arrived by plane from Greece.

Billy Payne, president of the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games, handed Walker the small lantern before he stepped off the aircraft with the Greek High Priestess.

The two leaders, who have worked hand in hand in planning and organizing the largest and costliest Olympics in history, later lit a cauldron in the Los Angeles Coliseum, and watched in awe as former Olympic decathlon champion Rafer Johnson lit the first torch and ran down a runway, beginning the circuitous 84-day, 15,000-mile to the city of Atlanta, where Opening Ceremonies will be held on July 19.

Today is Day 58 of the Torch Relay, a tradition that dates back to 1936. It has been transported across the country by runners, cyclists, train, steamboat, even the Pony Express.

GRAPHIC: Photo: WALT UNKS, BEARERS OF THE OLYMPIC FLAME: Jeffrey Arthurs receives the Olympic torch from Dolores Miller in front of a grandstand in downtown Henderson on Saturday, shortly after the torch run crossed into North Carolina en route to Atlanta. The torch run continued to Raleigh on Saturday and will be carried through Durham and Chapel Hill today.; WALKER; Graphic: TODAY'S OLYMPIC TORCH RUNTHROUGH DURHAM; THE OLYMPIC TORCH UN THROUGH CHAPEL HILL

LOAD-DATE: June 24, 1996

FOCUS - 33 OF 95 STORIES

Copyright 1996 The Durham Herald Co.
The Herald-Sun (Durham, N.C.)

July 02, 1996, Tuesday

SECTION: Sports; Pg. D5;

LENGTH: 564 words

HEADLINE: Walker is confident about Games USOC president is feeling good about Olympics

BYLINE: TIM PEELER The Herald-Sun

BODY:

There are doubters, to be sure, but LeRoy Walker, president of the U.S. Olympic Committee, firmly believes Atlanta is all set to host the Centennial Olympic Games.

"If we didn't have to wait for the torch to arrive on July 19, we could start the Olympics this week," Walker said Monday.

Never mind the Centennial Olympic Stadium is still a hard-hat area, or that there is still plenty of last-minute touch-up things to be done in the city, which has undergone a major facelift in the six years since it was awarded the Games.

There are only two things that have Walker really worried: transportation and security.

Walker is confident that the elaborate transportation schemes, which make heavy use of Atlanta's subway and closed streets in the downtown "Olympic Ring" area, will be effective in moving the 2 million or so visitors who are expected to descend on the city from around the world.

He also has faith in the massive security force that has been assembled to protect the athletes and spectators from terrorists, anti-government militia groups, muggers, pick-pockets and all other forms of unlawful miscreants.

"The security people tell me that they are on top of everything," Walker said. "But, as all of us know, you just wonder who has the cars or the bombs or whatever."

Last week's car bombing at a U.S. military base in Saudi Arabia, which killed 19 American service men, has drawn even more attention to the security risk at the Olympics, which suffered a major terrorist attack 24 years ago in Munich, Germany.

"I got the same answer last weekend as I did after [the bombing] Oklahoma City," Walker said. "They said: 'We are on top of all that. We have had dry runs for assaultive actions. Their final answer is 'That's all we can tell you; if we tell you any more, then it is not security.' "

ACOG's security force will number more than 40,000, and ACOG officials have vowed that Atlanta will be the safest place in the world during the Olympics.

"We have a humongous force," Walker said. "Before Munich, no organizing local committee had an item in the budget for security. Now, other than buildings and facilities, it is the largest item we have in the budget."

Otherwise, Walker has been busy trying to put out little fires here and there. He apparently averted a major headache last week when the NBA and its players' union reached a new collective bargaining agreement.

Walker had already come up with several options for naming a new U.S. Basketball team to replace "Dream Team III," which was made up of all NBA players who might have been prevented from playing in the Olympics had NBA owners gone ahead with a planned lockout.

"I immediately started working out plans," Walker said. "I couldn't wait until the last minute."

Among the ideas he came up with were to use the Tim Duncan-led Under 22 team instead of Dream Team III, or to use players from last week's NBA draft, none of which have signed contracts with their teams yet.

"Either of those two teams could have won the gold medal," Walker said. "We had plenty of options. I am just glad we didn't have to exercise any of them."

Walker, however, is keeping all of his ideas in the back of his head: The NBA players have until July 9 to approve or reject the new collective bargaining agreement.

"I'll feel much better once it is approved," Walker said.

GRAPHIC: Photo: PETER SCHUMACHER, THIS IS THE PLACE: LeRoy Walker stands outside Wallace Wade Stadium, site of the upcoming Gold Rush.

LOAD-DATE: July 02, 1996

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
REMARKS TO THE U.S. OLYMPIC TEAM
ATLANTA, GEORGIA
JULY 19, 1996

Thank you President [LeRoy] Walker. It is a great honor to share this day with you and with so many other heroes and soon-to-be heroes of the Olympic Movement. Dr. Walker, let me thank you for your tireless efforts as President of the U.S. Olympic Committee these past four years and for your lifetime of commitment to American and international sports. As a coach, educator, and administrator, you have touched the lives of countless athletes and young people, nurturing not just national and Olympic champions but also great citizens of the world.

Dr. Walker, your life and accomplishments are an inspiration to us all and we are all very proud that you will be leading our team into your hometown this evening.

I think all of us have been eager for this day to arrive. More than three months ago, Chelsea and I had the privilege of seeing the lighting of the Olympic flame in Greece. It's hard to believe that that same flame, which has traveled all across the country and which some of you have carried, will finally arrive in Atlanta to light these Olympic Games.

Taking part in that ceremony in Greece, greeting the flame on the South Lawn of the White House last month, and attending the Winter Olympics two years ago in Lillehammer, Norway [I am so happy to see some familiar faces from Lillehammer could join us today] were exciting and humbling experiences. Each time, I was infected by the Olympic spirit. The Olympic Spirit inspires more than athletic striving and excellence, it binds the family of nations, strengthens friendships that bridge race, religion, and culture, and promotes international goodwill and understanding.

Each of you here is a guardian of that same spirit, whether you are multiple Gold medalists, veteran, or first-time Olympians. To the athletes who are still striving and will compete in these Games, I know that each of you has already overcome so many challenges and won so many contests to represent our country here in Atlanta. So congratulations on your already magnificent achievements. I hope each of you reaches your highest, God-given potential in your chosen events.

Now, it's my great honor to introduce the person our team has selected to carry the American flag into the Olympic stadium tonight. As most of you know, Bruce Baumgartner is one of the most decorated and best wrestlers in U.S. history. He is a four-time Olympian, having already represented our country in Los Angeles, Seoul, Barcelona, and earned two gold medals and one silver. some good line goes here.

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up slowly
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practices
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the
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and grateful

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
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Each of you here is a guardian of that same spirit, whether you are multiple Gold medalists, veteran, or first-time Olympians. To the 100 Gold Medalists who could join us today, I thank you for reaching your personal best and for igniting the imaginations of people around the world. [I am so happy to see the familiar faces of some of the athletes who inspired me in Lillehammer could join us today] To the athletes who will compete during these two weeks, I know that each of you has already overcome so many challenges and won so many contests to arrive in Atlanta. America is already proud of your magnificent achievements and grateful that you could represent us in these Games. I hope each of you reaches your highest, God-given potential in your chosen events.

Now, it's my great honor to introduce the person our team has selected to carry the American flag into the Olympic stadium tonight. As most of you know, Bruce Baumgartner is one of the most decorated and best wrestlers in U.S. history. He is a four-time Olympian, having already represented our country in Los

no where ^{He} won
Angeles, Seoul, Barcelona, and earned two gold medals and one silver. I am proud to introduce a great champion ~~of~~ and ~~a~~ man who perseverance, commitment, and wrestling: Bruce Baumgartner.

###

a great American.

And
He beats
6 million
of his
countrymen
& more.

Gorgia Treble
Wayne Cluff
President
of Gorgia Ted

President William J. Clinton
Prepared Remarks to
U.S. Olympic Team
Atlanta, Georgia
July 19, 1996

Thank you, xxxx. [team captain]

One hundred years ago, the first U.S. team missed the boat, literally, for the first Modern Games. They got on the wrong ship on their way to Athens, and then discovered they had made another mistake. The Greeks were using the Julian calendar, the Americans used the Gregorian, and so the Americans were 2 weeks late. Luckily, they had set off two week early, and they arrived just as the opening ceremonies began.

We got around that problem this time. We had the world come to us.

Behind me are some of the greatest athletes of Olympics in this century. Their names and their accomplishments are a part of history. Before me are the Olympic heroes of the new century, some of whom have made their mark in these competitions before, and some of whom we will in Olympic Games in the next millennium. You are our history to come.

This is the pivot, the moment of transition, the time when the keepers of a great ideal hand off to another generation of champions. And it couldn't happen to a better looking group of people.

We are here to thank you, for your achievements, which make us proud; for your courage, which touches our hearts; and for your example, which tells every American who has ever dreamed: Work hard, and you can do it. You can do it.

We also have some other people to thank. The Modern Games were brought to life for America through the determination of one man, Dr. William Milligan Sloane, who took it upon himself to organize a team and send them off. And when he was short two tickets to Athens for his athletes, he gave up his tickets, and never even saw the spectacle that he had orchestrated.

Dr. Sloane started from scratch. He needed athletes, so he posted a notice at Princeton University, where he worked. He got one taker: Robert Garrett, who had never competed in sports, but wanted to. So he, too, started with nothing but a dream. Being an educated man, he researched his sport, and finding pictures of a discus, he had a blacksmith make one for him. It weighed 13 pounds, and Robert Garrett couldn't throw it farther than 49 feet. He heard the Europeans were throwing 87 feet. But he didn't give up. And on the day of the competition, his 13-pound discus was taken away, and replaced with the official model of 2 and a half pounds, and Robert Garrett flinged it out of the stadium.

Today, the grandson of Dr. Sloan, and the great-grandson of Mr. Garrett, the

namesakes of those two great Americans, are here with us: William Milligan Sloane and Robert Garrett.

In the past century, much has changed in our nation and around the world, and in these Olympic Games. One hundred years ago, the world was less democratic and less free; women had few rights and were not in the competition, and our own nation was struggling with segregation.

Now, a century later, democracy is taking root around the world, and peace has become a goal of longtime adversaries. We see that in the team from Bosnia, made up of people no longer at war.

Women, meanwhile, won their rights in our society, and they often steal the show at the Olympics, from gymnastics to track and field. And this year, we can't wait to see them on the basketball court.

And over the last century, as a nation, we have come closer to living by the ideals on which we were founded. We're getting there. Our goal is to provide opportunity to all who will work for it; to demand responsibility from every person; and to work together in community, because divided we defeat ourselves and united, we can not lose -- not on the field of play and not in life.

We have seen that in each of you. To reach a goal, every Olympian must first reach within, whether it is to clear a hurdle or jump the farthest, or run the fastest, or be the strongest or the most graceful. That takes work. It takes personal responsibility. It's no different from everyday life, where the hurdle might be finishing high school or college, being a good parent, a good worker, or a good neighbor.

But as each of you know, you can work as hard as is humanly possible, but you cannot win alone. No one can. You draw strength from a lifetime of support, from family and friend, coaches and role models. That's community, and success depends on it.

And looking at all of you here, we can see how different we are as a nation. There's the obvious: 378 of our team members this year are men; 276 are women. We have a swimmer who's just 14 years old, and a fencer who's 50 -- to which I say, thank you for making me look forward to my next birthday. We have basketball players who wear a size 22 shoe; gymnasts who wear a size 5 and a half. We have every race represented. You differ in beliefs and culture. And still you are, we all are, one America. Your nation is united, with you, behind you, beside you. That is the spirit of unity that makes us the envy of the world.

Our next century of Olympic dreams begins tonight. You show us how far we have already come and you will help us light the path toward tomorrow. To all our trailblazers, your nation is so very proud of you. You carry our best wishes for your greatest success. Godspeed.

FOCUS - 79 OF 95 STORIES

Copyright 1996 Johnson Publishing Company, Inc.
Jet

April 22, 1996

SECTION: NEWSMAKERS; Pg. 38

LENGTH: 82 words

HEADLINE: USOC Prexy Leroy Walker Gets Golden Gavel Honor

BODY:

U.S. Olympic Committee President Leroy Walker has been named the recipient of the Golden Gavel Award, the most prestigious honor offered by Toastmasters International, a global nonprofit organization dedicated to teaching public speaking skills.

Walker, 77, who is overseeing preparations for the upcoming XXVI Olympic Games in Atlanta, has raised millions of dollars for the games. He will receive the prestigious honor during the Golden Gavel Luncheon in Louisville, KY, on Aug. 21.

GRAPHIC: Picture, Leroy Walker

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: April 22, 1996

**OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT**

272 OEOB

WASHINGTON, DC 20501

202-456-7035

FAX: 202-456-2685

To:

June Shih

Date:

7/18/96

Fax #:

65709

Pages:

3

, including this cover sheet.

From:

Lorraine Voles

Peggy Wilhide

Ginny Terzano

Heidi Kukis

Joe Cerrell

Julia Payne

Jonathan Spalter

COMMENTS:

There is also a transcript of a
press-briefing on May 14 about the Olympics. It's
a little lengthy, but if that's what you need,
please call
back

Prepared Remarks
Vice President Al Gore

Shaw Jr. High School
May 10, 1996

This summer, the world will be watching Atlanta.

Most eyes will be focused on the Olympic Games. And we're very excited about that. But there's another event that will be taking place -- in fact, it's the world's second largest sporting event . . . the Paralympic Games. And I predict that these Games will capture our imagination like never before.

They will capture our imagination with stories of sheer will . . .

Like the high jumper with only one leg -- he cleared a bar that was almost 7 feet high.

Like the visually impaired swimmer-- she just missed making the Olympic team by one/one-hundredth of a second, and then she went on to win ten Paralympic Gold Medals.

Like a young man who had all four limbs amputated and then ran 100 meters in just over 11 seconds -- less than two seconds off Carl Lewis's Olympic record.

And like the paraplegic who bench pressed . . . listen closely . . . 602 pounds.

What excellent achievements. And hearing about them, really made me think about why we are here today and why schools across the country want Paralympic athletes to come and talk to their students.

We are not here today just because the Paralympians are world-class athletes. They are world-class athletes. . . by any standard.

We are not here today just because the people behind me are world-class athletes living with disabilities. They are.

And we are not here today just because the people behind me are world-class athletes . . . living with disabilities . . . who represent the United States, the greatest nation in the world. They are all of that.

We are here because these Paralympians -- and the young Paralympic hopefuls -- are tremendous human beings. In their pursuit of excellence they show us not just what an athlete can accomplish, but the very potential of the human spirit.

In order for them to compete in the high jump, they had to leap barriers that must have looked impossible. For them to swim for gold medals, they had to persevere when the tide was against them. Before they could bench press a bar and lift their lives, they had to push away stereotypes and ugly assumptions that they were not equals.

These athletes have overcome what might have defeated most of us.

And through their example, and through the example of all those living with disabilities in this country and throughout the world, we are reminded that disability does not disadvantage. Disability does not disenfranchise. And disability does not -- and must never -- disqualify.

Because all of us have different abilities, and each of us has the ability to triumph . . . on the playing field . . . in the schools . . . at the workplace . . . and in the highest levels of government.

President Clinton understands this. And he has worked -- on behalf of all people with disabilities -- to make sure that, in America, we move "away from exclusion towards inclusion, away from dependence towards independence, and away from paternalism towards empowerment."

That is why we are thrilled that America will be home to the Paralympic Games -- an event that will showcase the unlimited potential and talents of people with disabilities.

And that is why we are equally excited that the United States will host the Third Paralympic Congress right before the Games begin. That Congress will bring together disability leaders and further elevate the status and inclusion of not just athletes, but of all the people with disabilities worldwide.

Over the last three years, along with Mack McLarty, I have had the distinct honor of leading our Task Force on the Olympic and the Paralympic Games. I would like end by telling you two things I've discovered.

First, these aren't only Atlanta's Games, they are America's Games. And America's Games are going to be the best Games ever.

Second -- and the reason for the first -- is that Americans are coming together and working very hard to make these Games happen. We know that when Americans work hard and unify -- when we are one America -- there is no limit to what we can achieve.

And when it comes to teaching these lessons of work, and inclusion, and that anything is possible . . . I can't think of better instructors than the Paralympians and all the brave people living with disabilities.

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MEMORANDUM TO MELANNE VERVEER
LISSA MUSCATINE

FROM: VICKI RADD
ANGUS KING
SUBJECT: Olympic remarks
DATE: July 15, 1996

Attached is a copy of the President and First Lady's remarks from the torch lighting at the White House, which give a good summary of the themes we are stressing for the Games; a copy of the list of Olympians and former Olympians (The "Golden 100") who will be on stage with the President and First Lady during their remarks to this year's Olympic team on July 19; and biographical information on William Milligan Sloane, who will be sitting in the front row and will be acknowledged by the First Lady in her remarks.

The "Golden 100" list is still growing, and additions will be sent to you as they are made.

100 GOLDEN OLYMPIANS

Criteria for selection

The 100 Golden Olympians have been invited to represent the historical accomplishments of the United States in the 100 year history of the Olympic Games. The U.S. has won 834 Olympic Championship events since 1896, more than any other nation, and 1742 gold medals have been won in individual and team events.

The 100 gold medalists we selected by the U.S. Olympians organization, the alumni association of the USOC. They were chosen to represent as wide a selection of sports as possible. Their performances at the Olympic Games were the principal criteria, and their accomplishments outside the arena and their contributions to the development of their sport following their competitive days were also considered.

Additional Invitees for consideration

Soule Alleen Rigglin, 1920 gold medalist, diving
has accepted Invitation

Milt Campbell, 1956 gold medalist, decathlon
will attend the Gala. available if invited

Robert Garrett, Grand son of 1896 gold medalist.
Called at 212-759-1870

Ruth Owens, Wife of Jesse Owens, 4-time gold medalist, 1936
recent hip replacement - unable to attend

Norbert Schemansky, gold medalist 1952, weightlifting

Bill Sloane, Grandson of William Sloan
Has arrived in Atlanta. Will attend

Gail, Grace & Jack Thorpe, family representatives of Jim Thorpe, Double
gold medalist 1912

Gina Tillman, Grand Daughter of Jesse Owens
not available - returned to job.

Trent Dimas, 1992 gold medalist, gymnastics
in Atlanta. Will attend, if invited

Nancy Hogshead, 1984 gold medalist, swimming
in Atlanta. Will attend if invited.

Cathy Turner, 1992 & 1994 gold medalist, speed skating

GENERAL NOTES & C.V. ON
THE LIFE OF WILLIAM MILLIGAN SLOANE

Taken from Volume 2
The Age of Coubertin and the I Olympiad
by
Dietrich Quanz and Gary Allison
from the 25-volume continuity book series
THE OLYMPIC CENTURY: The Official 1st Century History
of the Modern Olympic Movement
Copyrighted 1996,
The United States Olympic Committee, 1st Century Project,
and World Sport Research & Publications, Inc.
Los Angeles, California

Dr. William Milligan Sloane, was the United State's only founding delegate to the Paris 1894 Congress for the Re-Establishment of the Olympic Games at the Sorbonne; first IOC Member in the United States (he served 31 years from 1894 to 1925); first President of the United States Olympic Committee (1894 to 1899); and by all rights, the unquestionable "Father of the United States Olympic Movement."

The site of his grave is at the private Princeton Cemetery, located adjacent to, but not on, the Princeton University campus in Princeton, New Jersey. At the cemetery gate, the Great-Grandson of Dr. Sloane will receive the torch and run it from there to the marker stone. At the grave site, there will be very brief remarks (about 2-5 minutes) made by Sloane's Grandson and namesake, William Milligan Sloane, age 78. At the conclusion of his remarks, Robert Garrett, the Great-Grandson of the athlete Robert Garrett (who was Sloane's first recruit for the U.S. team going to the Athens 1896 Games, where he won 2 first places in the discus and shot put, and two second places in the broad jump and the high jump), will carry the torch out of the cemetery, passing first by the grave site of President Grover Cleveland, who at the request of his lifelong best friend Sloane was the first Honorary President of the USOC, then known as the American Olympic Committee.

These few minutes at the Princeton Cemetery will bring closure to a piece of unfinished Olympic business (especially for the USOC), when the Olympic flame renders to Dr. Sloane recognition for his Olympic achievements, something that did not happen in his lifetime. Bitter prejudice against some of Sloane's ideas and work by early American Olympic Committee powers, indeed some IOC powers, denied him his due.

Dr. Sloane was one of the most important and notable University history professors and scholars of his time. To his best friends and colleagues he was known to be tough and determined, yet humble and selfless. While Sloane at first glance appears to have been a rather unlikely candidate to be involved in the sport and Olympic worlds, Baron Pierre de Coubertin -- writing his friend's obituary said of him, "his contribution was the moral center of the revival to which he dedicated his enormous intelligence and endless talent."

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Sloane lived out his entire life and career by the cardinal tenants of his Covenanter Presbyterian faith, which taught one never to seek credit for one's accomplishments, as such recognition was meaningless unless spontaneously acknowledged and bestowed upon you by those you sought to serve. Another unrelenting belief of the Covenanters was their unswerving commitment to the abolition of slavery in the United States, "or anywhere else it reared its ugly head." Sloane's father, the Reverend James Renwick Sloane (1817-1988) based his ministry upon this belief. (His church was Manhattan's 3rd Presbyterian Church on 23rd Street). It was Reverend Sloane's uncompromising writing and preaching in favor of this subject that sparked the bloody, 3-day, 1863 Civil War Draft Riots in New York City. Both the Reverend and his only son, then 14, were saved from a mob lynching by a hastily mobilized Company of the New York National Guard.

At the Paris 1894 Congress for the Re-establishment of the Olympic Games, it was Sloane who convinced Baron Pierre de Coubertin and the other 77 founding delegates, (many of them card carrying members of the newly formed International Peace Movement), that the wording of the resolution to revive the ancient Games, and to create an International Olympic Committee to shepherd them, had to clearly state that these modern Olympic Games were to be "for all the youth of the world." The inclusion of the word "all" was to emphasize every race, color, sex and religion in that world.

By any measure, this was an extraordinary declaration for the newly formed IOC to make, when you consider the entrenched prejudices of our world in the summer of 1894. Perhaps, more than anyone else present, and given his personal beliefs, it was Sloane the man of history and conscience who understood the moral impact this single word could (and did) have on the future of the IOC.

Most of Sloane's 31 years as an IOC member were spent, with Coubertin and the IOC's concurrence, working slowly and with great skill to fulfill the implicit promise contained in the IOC's 1894 declaration. From his perch as an internationally famous historian (Princeton 1877-1896 and Seth Low Chair of History at Columbia University 1896-1916), contemporary colleagues of Sloane claimed he could genuinely see the future.

Through extensive travel and voluminous correspondence, Sloane advised and guided the creation of the 1913 Far Eastern Games and the 1921 South American Games (forerunners to today's Asian and Pan American Games), which spurred the establishment and development of a number of sports, National Olympic Committees and election of IOC Members on those two continents. These developments led rapidly to numerous teams from Asian and Latin American countries competing permanently in Olympic Games and having a valued voice in the future of the Olympic movement itself.

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As an IOC Member, Sloane worked unceasingly for the inclusion of women in Olympic sports, although his voice remained in the minority. Women would reach full sport status with men, when they would be permitted their own track and field events at the Amsterdam 1928 Games. However, it would take another 50 years before the number of competing women athletes began to match those of the men.

Many of the early IOC Members, indeed many early AOC Members, who were regrettably victims and perpetrators of their own prejudices, were understandably critical of Sloane's efforts. He faced enormous resistance and criticism for his attempts to reach out to African countries in the manner he was doing with Asia and South America, as most of Africa was then ruled by colonial European powers. Trivializing and obscuring Sloane's achievements was the best way his detractors had to underscore their disapproval.

In the United States for example, Sloane was more often than not deliberately left off the membership lists of the American Olympic Committee and the American Olympic Association, as though he did not exist. Of the first seven Official AOC (later the AOA) Reports published from 1904 through 1924, his photograph appears only once along with other Olympiad leaders. Ironically, from Paris 1900 through Antwerp 1920, it was Sloane, acting in his capacity as the senior IOC Member in the United States, who appointed the very AOC and AOA members who would work behind his back to see that his name was left out of official documents.

Throughout this period, Sloane remained loyal to his IOC and his national Olympic commitments, concentrating his efforts for the latter on the unrelenting problem of raising enough money to send U.S. teams to Olympic Games. He never complained of or acknowledged the petty treatment he received at the hands of others. Nor did he order text revisions in official publications, which was well within his power to do. The minutes of the American Olympic Association do not mention a word of tribute or of his passing in (September) 1928, while it does do so for lesser members: a remarkable omission considering his 31 years of commitment.

Then finally in 1929, when the AOA published the first list of past presidents, Sloane's name did not appear. The documentation that he had indeed been the first USOC President was not rediscovered until 1991, after a review of his personal papers and interviews with his family. His descendants had always said he had been President, but no one listened to them.

As an educator and a historian, Sloane's life work stands on a level equal with that of his part-time Olympic efforts. One of the first PH.D.'s in the United States, having secured his at Leipsic, Germany in 1876, Sloane was an institution builder. Always the background man, Sloane assisted in the 1896 conversion of the College of New Jersey into Princeton University. He would assist in the move of

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his alma mater Columbia College from 49th Street to Morningside Heights in 1897, then preside with others over the creation of their graduate school.

While he understood and was committed to the development of the graduate school concept, Sloane felt most strongly that the emerging university system also needed strong preparatory school's at the other end of the undergraduate experience. To this end he sat on the trustees of the Gilman School in Maryland, Princeton Prep, and Lawrenceville Academy in New Jersey, where for 24 years he help to guide the latter school's unique curriculum and build the campus facilities.

Sloane was also one of the founders, and for 36 years an elected trustee of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, which was technically the first graduate school available in the United States. Perhaps the greatest tribute to his work as an education, is that all the institutions in which he invested his time and intelligence, flourish today.

As a new professor, Sloane was assigned in 1877 the Chairmanship the newly formed Princeton Faculty Committee on Athletic Sports, an assignment no one else wanted. Although not an athlete, Sloane came to believe sport could and should be an invaluable part of student life, while most other faculty and administrators wanted in banned from campus. In 1879, Sloane organized his counter parts at various Eastern colleges into the Ivy Collegiate Faculty Committee on Athletic Sports, which was the forerunner of today's National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).

During his eleven years as Chairman of the Ivy Collegiate Faculty Committee on Athletic Sports, Sloane took a dim view of the Amateur Athletic Union, whom he believed interfered with the natural flow of student and campus sport life. He felt the AAU's goal had more to do with the self-aggrandizement of the adult leadership than it did for the student's welfare. More condemning, he was constantly at odds with the AAU over the full inclusion of all athletes, most notably women and what we term today "the minorities."

In the years following Sloane's death 1928, the history of providing full parity for black athletes and African countries in the Olympic movement had several more sorry chapters to go, before becoming a true reality in 1988. Dr. Sloane established the goal and many other like-minded individuals completed it. As a historian, it was a process in which he believed the world was moving. As an educator, he counted on it.

Among William Milligan Sloane's numerous contributions to the Olympic movement, his efforts on behalf of "all" the youth of the world was his greatest, and for it alone he deserves at long last, during this centennial year to be publicly acknowledge as the "Father of the United States Olympic Movement."

Information from Volume 2, The Age of Coubertin and the I Olympiad by Dietrich Quanz and Gary Allison, from the 25-volume continuity book series, THE OLYMPIC CENTURY: The Official 1st Century History of the Modern Olympic Movement, copyrighted by the United States Olympic Committee, 1st Century Project, and World Sport Research & Publications, Incorporated, Los Angeles, 1996.

LIFE C.V. OF DR. WILLIAM MILLIGAN SLOANE

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:

Dr. William Milligan Sloane was born Tuesday, November 12, 1850, at Richmond (Franklin County), Ohio, the son of Reverend James Renwick Willson Sloane, a noted American abolitionist, distinguished Covenant Presbyterian Pastor and College Professor of Theology, (1823-1886) and his first wife, Anne Wylie Milligan (1824-1854). On August 22, 1925, Sloane suffered a paralyzing stroke, from which he only partially recovered three years later. He died on Tuesday, 11 September 1928 at Bay Head, New Jersey (a beach city near Princeton) at age 77, and is buried in the Sloane Family plot at Princeton Cemetery; Princeton, New Jersey.

DISTINCTIONS:

- o "Father of the United States Olympic movement."
- o With Baron Pierre De Coubertin of France and Charles Herbert of Great Britain, one of the three organizers of the 1894 Congress of the Sorbonne for the restoration of the Olympic Games and signer of the official invitation to delegates.
- o The only delegate from the United States to the Congress of the Sorbonne, June 1894.
- o The first International Olympic Committee member in the United States, a position held 31 years from June 1894 until his resignation in 1925.
- o Founder and first President of the United States Olympic Committee, 1894-1899.
- o Major American author and University Scholar. Most celebrated written work, the 1894-96, 4-volume Life of Napoleon Bonaparte, ranked as a classic (and collectors item) on the subject.
- o Chairman of Princeton Faculty Committee on Athletic Sports from 1877 to 1896, continued through 1912 at Columbia. Member 1879-1912, and Chairman 1891-1899, of the Ivy Collegiate Faculty Committee on Athletic Sports, which was the forerunner of today's National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), created in 1905.

LIFE C.V. OF DR. WILLIAM MILLIGAN SLOANE

- o Member of the Managing Committee 1882-1897, Trustee 1886-1918, The American School of Classical Studies at Athens, Greece.
- o Holder of the prestigious Seth Low Chair for History at Columbia University, from Fall 1896 through his retirement in 1916.
- o Elected member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, 1909.
- o Twice President of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, 1914-1918, and 1920-1928.
- o President and Member, American Historical Society, 1901-1923.
- o Vice President and Member, New York Historical Society 1890-1917.
- o Inducted 1910, Chevalier, French Legion of Honor.
- o Recipient of the Royal Order of the Northern Star, presented by King Gustaf V of Sweden, 1912 for helping to organized the Olympic Games of 1912.
- o Simultaneous recipient of the National Academy of Arts and Letters and National Institute of Arts and Letters 1927 Gold Medal for Lifetime Distinction in History and Biography.

EDUCATION & LIFE'S WORK:

- 1858/1864 - Mount Washington School (Columbia College Preparatory School); New York.
- 1864 - Admitted to Columbia University at age 14.
- 1868 - Graduate Columbia University; New York.
- 1868/1872 - Classical Master, Newell Institute; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
- 1872 - University of Berlin, Masters in Philosophy under the instruction of internationally renowned German historians Theodor Mommsens (1812-1903) and Gustav Droyson (1808-1884), the oriental and biblical scholar August Dillmann (1823-1894), among others.
- 1874/1877 - Private Secretary to George Bancroft, American Ambassador (Minister) to the German Imperial Court. With fellow employee Austin Scott, was research assistant for Volumes 9 & 10 of Bancroft's History of the United States).

LIFE C.V. OF DR. WILLIAM MILLIGAN SLOANE

- 1875/1877 - PH.D. in Philology, University of Leipsic, under the advisorship of Curtius, Fleischner, Loth and Krehl.
- 1877 - Became Professor of Latin, History and the Ancient Classics at Princeton University.
- 1877-1896 - Chairman of Princeton Faculty Committee on Athletic Sports.
- 1879-1912 - Member and President, 1891-1899, of the Ivy Collegiate Faculty Committee on Athletic Sports.
- 1882-1897 - Member of the Managing Committee, The American School of Classical Studies at Athens, Greece.
- 1884 - Assumed the Princeton Chair of History (to 1896).
- 1886 - Founder, Trustee (elected), The American School of Classical Studies at Athens, Greece (to 1918).
- 1887 - Honorary PH.D. in Literature; Columbia University.
- 1896 - Seth Low Chair of History at Columbia University; New York (to 1916).
- 1898 - Honorary Doctor of Laws; Rutgers University, New Jersey.
- 1903 - Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws.
- 1912/1913 - Professor Emeritus of the Theodore Roosevelt Professorship; Kaiser Frederick Wilhelm University (nee. University of Berlin). Guest Guest lectured Fall Semester and created the Roosevelt Library for the Institution.
- 1916/1925 - Professor Emeritus, Columbia University.

LANGUAGES:

Sloane read, wrote, researched and spoke eight languages: English, Latin, Greek, French, German, Italian, Hebrew and Arabic.

IOC MEMBERSHIP:

On Saturday, 23 June 1895, in the Paris apartment of Michel Vikales (4, rue Bablyone), Sloane was elected the first U.S. IOC Member and 1904 President designate when the Olympic Games were to be held in the United States. (New York was selected as the city to hold those 1904