

2007 UNSUNG HEROES

SPECIAL NOMINATIONS



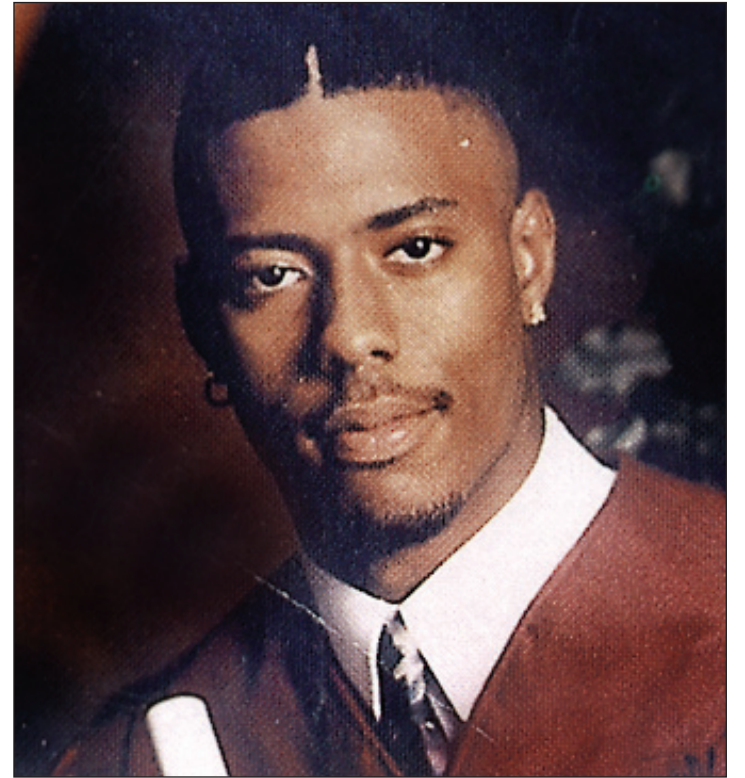
U.S. Army Pfc. Brandon Keith Bobb, 20

PORT ARTHUR



U.S. Army Spc. Ryan Berg, 19

SABINE PASS



U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Edward "Jay" Reynolds, 27

PORT ARTHUR

Brandon Ordoyne of Sabine Pass nominated these three fallen soldiers from South County.

"I would like to nominate these three

young men who died in the line of duty for our country. I cannot think of any other reasons for them not to be nominated because we all know of their

bravery and courage to fight for our country and they paid the ultimate sacrifice. I believe these three young men should be Citizens of the Year and their

families should be honored for them," Ordoyne wrote in his nomination letter.

All three local soldiers died in combat in Iraq.

OTHER NOMINEES ARE ...



Dr. Lani Randall

AGE: 53

CITY: Port Neches

FAMILY: Husband, Len

OCCUPATION: Superintendent of Port Neches-Groves ISD



Greg Flores

AGE: 73

CITY: Port Arthur

FAMILY: wife, Alice Flores

OCCUPATION: Self employed

How do you feel about being nominated Citizen of the Year?

"Very appreciative for the nomination and honored to be in such a select group of people," she said.

Port Neches-Groves ISD Trustee Darren McCutcheon nominated Lani Randall for Citizen of the Year for her work educating the community about the recently approved \$123 million bond.

"Without the leadership of our superintendent it would never have been possible. She spent countless hours speaking at civic events to educate area patrons on the benefits of upgrading our facilities," he said. "This bond will affect the lives of our children for generations to come. It will also enhance the people who live within the communities of Groves and Port Neches."

How do you feel about being nominated Citizen of the Year?

"I'm proud to be nominated, whether I win or not doesn't matter. Just being nominated is something to be proud of."

Zulema Escobedo nominated Flores.

"He is always there anytime anyone needs anything. He is big into education and our youth in general. To me, that's one of the focuses I like about him. He focuses on children and that's his passion," Zulema Escobedo wrote in her nomination letter.

HEROES

Heroes, sometimes don't go to battle, sometimes they have to conquer their within, sometimes their actions speak louder than words, others, through fate, never get the chance to win.

But you are indeed, our hero, you gave it your all and then a little more and we just wanted you to know that we're proud of you and that's really what these words are for.

It takes a brave man to even consider the military, especially with the world on its precarious edge, it takes a brave man to volunteer, and an even braver man to take the pledge.

And we're sorry you didn't get your party, but you had to leave with only hours to spare and as a marine, you knew your duty, responsiveness goes with the uniform and the hair.

There were a lot of tears that night, we knew you'd chosen the infantry and the risks attached, but you were determined to make it as a marine and that determination, simply couldn't be matched.

Because you always strive to be the best, in anything you set your mind to and that mind set helped you through boot camp, God only knows what you had to go through.

And in five long weeks of hell, you were already the leader of the squad, but then fate decided to inter-

vene and you were struck, like a bolt from God.

And so very quickly and cruelly, your dreams turned into dust, but maybe everything for a reason and maybe, in fate you should trust.

Because, believe me, you never let us down, we are immensely proud of what you've done, in fact, you've never disappointed us in anything, you are in every way, a wonderful son.

And your little girl misses you so, she misses you with all her heart and today is the first day of the rest of your life and I think with your spirit, that's a pretty good start.

So, just know that you haven't failed us and yes, there's one more thing you should know, we love you, we're very proud of you and yes son, you are definitely our hero.

By: Allen Jesson

CONGRATULATIONS

for being selected a nominee for

Citizen of the Year John Barry Holland

It's been long overdue & you are the top citizen in our book. From PALT