

TRIBUTE TO RAYMOND E. RIDDICK

HON. PAUL E. TSONGAS
of Massachusetts

In the House of Representatives
Monday, April 18, 1977

Mr. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, Raymond E. Riddick of Lowell, Massachusetts was honored last night. A dinner to benefit a scholarship fund in memory of the former Lowell High School football coach and all pro National Football League player, Ray Riddick, was held.

Ray Riddick was well known for his many accomplishments on the athletic field and well respected for his dedication to the young people of Lowell. I would like to tell you why.

Ray Riddick was born in October of 1917. Those who attended Lowell High School with Ray knew of his outstanding athletic ability. Before he graduated in 1935, he had played four years of varsity football, had been named captain of the team, all scholastic end, and also participated in the baseball and track programs. An outstanding offensive and defensive end at Fordham University, Ray was named to the "All East" team. He played in the 1940 college all star game in which his team defeated the NFL champion New York Giants at the Polo Grounds. In 1940, Ray was drafted by the Green Bay Packers. He started, as a rookie, at right end, opposite the great Don Hutson. He played both offense and defense and was named all pro.

In 1942, Ray Riddick entered the Navy, his football career was put aside as World War II broke out. After three years in the Navy, he became varsity end coach at Dartmouth College.

In 1947, Ray began his association with the Lowell High School

football team as coach. It was an association which would last for some 29 years, until his death. In those 29 seasons he won 180 games including 91 shutouts. His team outscored opponents by two to one. He coached ten undefeated teams and won six Eastern Massachusetts state championships. Four of his teams went to bowl games. He also compiled an amazing 36 game unbeaten record.

Ray Riddick received the New England Football Officials Memorial Award in 1967, a symbol of their respect for a coach. He was inducted into the Massachusetts Coaches Hall of Fame this year. Yet perhaps the most important tribute was paid to Ray Riddick last night. A memorial scholarship fund was established. It is a fund which will carry on Ray Riddick's work with the young people of Lowell. It is a fund which reflects his dedication to the City of Lowell. It is a fund which exemplifies his character, sportsmanship, leadership, and accomplishments. I cannot think of a better tribute to Raymond E. Riddick than a memorial scholarship fund.

Ray Riddick and his family deserve the gratitude and admiration of the country at large. I ask the Members of the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Raymond E. Riddick and his contribution to his community and fellow human beings.