

IN MEMORIAM



LT. COL. ELLISON S. ONIZUKA
1946-1986

Hero hailed space travel as 'fantastic'

El Onizuka, as the NASA astronaut was known to many, recommended space travel highly and said everyone should try it.

"It was more than I ever expected... a fantastic experience," Onizuka said in a Tribune-Herald interview following his January, 1985 trip into space as a mission specialist aboard the space shuttle Discovery on the first shuttle flight devoted solely to Department of Defense goals.

"... And what a view. I highly recommend it to everybody," Onizuka said in a telephone interview from Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas.

"It's a beautiful planet."

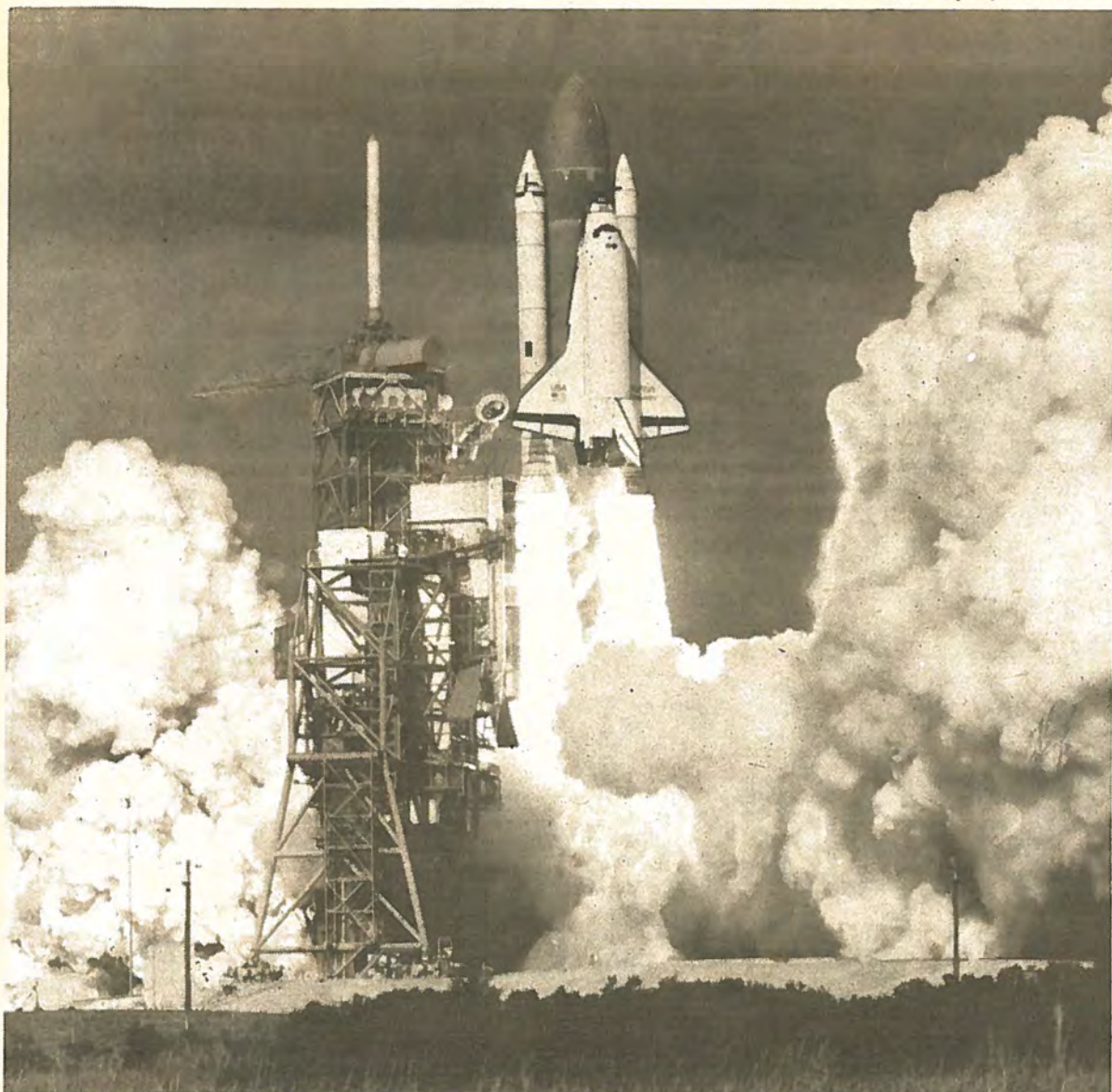
He said he looked out the window during the orbital stage of the flight, and, "It is the most beautiful sight you'll ever see, something that film just can't capture."

Asked what was the most impressive aspect of his three-day space flight, Onizuka said: "To be honest with you, the whole thing was very impressive to me. Everything from the lift-off, the orbiting of Earth, to re-entry. To be part of it was really something, the kind of experience you just never forget."



—NASA photo

DURING TRAINING—During training as an astronaut candidate, Ellison Onizuka managed a smile during preparation for a training exercise at the water survival school at Homestead Air Force Base in Florida.



—NASA photo

SOARING INTO SPACE—On Jan. 24, 1985 the space shuttle Discovery blasts off from Cape Canaveral on the space ship's third mission. NASA

astronauts Ellison Onizuka, Thomas Mattingly, Loren Shriver and James Buchli; and Gary Payton of the U.S. Air Force were on board.

"High Flight"

*Oh, I have slipped the surly bonds of earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings*

*Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth
Of sun-split clouds... and done a hundred things*

*You have not dreamed of... wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence. Hovering there,*

*I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air.*

*Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue
I've topped the windswept heights with easy grace*

*Where never lark, or even eagle flew.
And, while with silent, lifting mind I've trod*

*The high untrespassed sanctity of space
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.*

James Gillespie Magee, Jr.



—NASA photo

THE FIRST MISSION—Ellison Onizuka posed for a photo prior to his first space mission with the rest of the crew which successfully completed a secret Department of Defense mission a year ago. With Onizuka in this photo were astronauts

Thomas Mattingly II, front, at right, and Loren Shriver, front, left, the commander and pilot; and, in back, from left, Gary Payton, payload specialist; and mission specialist James F. Buchli, center.

Onizuka's 'dream' turns to tragedy

Serving his country as an astronaut was a "dream come true" for Kona-born Ellison Onizuka, a lieutenant colonel in the U. S. Air force.

On Jan. 28, that dream turned into tragedy.

As his family and friends cheered the blastoff of the space shuttle Challenger from viewing stations at Cape Canaveral, the big spaceship exploded shortly after takeoff, killing all seven astronauts aboard.

It was Onizuka's second space mission. Onizuka, a mission specialist, first orbited the Earth in January of last year on a three-day secret military mission as a member of our country's first Department of Defense space crew.

During one of his many post-flight public appearances in Hawaii Onizuka noted that he had passed over his home state many times on the mission and thought fondly of those down below.

In public talks and media interviews Onizuka often paid tribute to the many people who helped him along the path to achieving his dream of becoming an astronaut.

Last March nearly 1,000 family members, friends and fans turned out for a big testimonial dinner for the Kona native at the Kona Surf Hotel.

Sixty-six relatives and friends from Hawaii flew to Florida in January to watch the blastoff of NASA's 25th space shuttle mission. It was to have been the tenth flight of the Challenger.

The Hawaii group included Onizuka's mother, Mitsue, of Keolu; his brother, Claude, sisters, Shirley and Norma; and other relatives and friends.

The Hawaii group had arranged to treat Onizuka and his fellow crew members to a luau-style buffet at a reception to honor the Challenger crew at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Tex., following the space mission.

At last March's testimonial in Kona, Onizuka dedicated his first space mission to the people of the state of Hawaii.

"You're wonderful people . . . Hawaii no ka oi," Onizuka told the crowd which had gathered to give the Kona-born astronaut a rousing welcome home.

Being an astronaut is a great experience, and "I owe it all to you . . . all who have helped me along the way. Your love, support



ELLISON ONIZUKA
...in training, 1978

and aloha spirit have made it all possible," Onizuka said.

"Thank you for being there when I needed you most . . . and thanks for the great welcome home," Hawaii's first astronaut told the crowd.

Onizuka said he was proud and honored to have had the opportunity to serve the United States as an astronaut. He talked of his great pride in his country and said the success of the space shuttle program shows that American expertise and know-how "can do anything."

America is where a "local boy

like me can grow up in the coffee fields of Kona" and go on to orbit the earth in the most sophisticated space craft the world has ever seen, he said.

Onizuka had great faith and pride in the shuttle and called it a machine we all can be proud of because it puts the U. S. in the forefront of space exploration, making American "second to none."

He said the U. S. space program not only has brought us much knowledge about space, but also has resulted in improvements in everything from communications to things we use every day in our homes.

America has come a long way with its space program, and we won't stop here, because there's still a long way to go, he said.

"I'm proud to be part of that program," Onizuka told the Kona crowd.

Onizuka was the son of Mitsue and the late Masamitsu Onizuka. His parents started Onizuka Store in Keolu more than 50 years ago. His mother still operates the store.

Onizuka, a 1964 graduate of Kona-weana High School, was married to the former Lorna Yoshida, a 1967 graduate of Ka'u High School.

The Onizukas had two daughters, Janelle and Darien. The family lives in Houston where Onizuka was headquartered at Johnson Space Center.

Onizuka was the nation's first American-Asian astronaut and the recipient of the first Outstanding Asian-Pacific American Award last year from the Asian-Pacific American Heritage Council.

Onizuka was selected to be an astronaut in January of 1978.

"It's almost like a dream. It was something I thought about and I hoped I would have an opportunity to apply for the program," he said later that year.

Onizuka was a student at Honokohau Elementary School in 1959 when the U. S. started its space program.

When the news of the space program reached Kona it intrigued young Onizuka and he began dreaming of a career in the aerospace field, a dream that intensified as the years passed.

Last year, while being honored as the "Lindbergh of the Big Island" by the local Circumnavigators Club chapter, Onizuka said: "I still pinch myself to convince myself that the dream came true."



—T-H file photo

BEFORE FIRST MISSION—Mitsue Onizuka posed in front of the family's Onizuka Store in Keolu with a photo of her astronaut son prior to his January, 1985 inaugural mission aboard the space shuttle Discovery.



—T-H file photo

Memories of the Big Isle's astronaut, Ellison Onizuka

HOME FOR A VISIT—Astronaut Ellison Onizuka, his wife, Lorna, and their daughters, Darien and Janelle, paused as they stepped off a plane at Keahole Airport last March as the family arrived for a testimonial in Onizuka's honor at the Kona

Surf Hotel. At the testimonial, Onizuka dedicated his first space mission a year ago aboard the space shuttle Discovery to the people of the State of Hawaii.



—T-H file photo

TRIUMPHANT RETURN—Some 1,000 family members, friends and fans turned out last March to greet astronaut Ellison Onizuka at a big testimonial dinner at the Kona Surf Hotel. At right is Fred Fujimoto, who headed up the coordination of

the event. Being an astronaut is a great experience, and "I owe it all to you ... all who have helped me along the way. Your love, support and aloha spirit have made it all possible," Onizuka told the crowd.



—UPI photo

TO SPACE SHUTTLE—Challenger crew members Christa McAuliffe, front, Ellison Onizuka, and Gregory Jarvis leave crew headquarters for their trip to the launch pad Jan. 28.



—UPI photo

GRIPPED BY SORROW—Claude Onizuka of Kona, brother of astronaut Ellison Onizuka, comforts the astronaut's widow, Lorna Onizuka, during a memorial service Jan. 31 for the seven

dead astronauts at the Johnson Space Center in Houston. At right is the astronaut's daughter, Janelle.

Isles, nation pay tribute to shuttle crew

Eleven months ago today a crowd of about 1,000 greeted Hawaii's first astronaut, Lt. Col. Ellison Onizuka, with a hero's welcome at a big testimonial banquet at the Kona Surf Hotel Convention Center.

Family members, friends and fans gathered as the community rolled out the red carpet to honor the astronaut from Keolu.

On Feb. 16 many of the same folks will gather again at the convention center, this time to pay sorrowful and loving tribute to

Hawaii's favorite native son, who perished with six fellow crew members in the January explosion of the space shuttle Challenger.

Kona businessman Fred Fujimoto, who has served as Onizuka's Big Island spokesman and coordinator, said details about the service will be announced this week. Fujimoto said personnel from NASA and the U.S. Air Force are expected to participate in the service.

Fujimoto was the coordinator

of a group of 66 Hawaii residents — Onizuka family members and friends — who flew to Cape Canaveral to view the launching of what was to be the Kona-born astronaut's second space mission.

All 66 were invited to attend the Jan. 31 national memorial service in Houston for the seven members of the Challenger crew who died in the shuttle tragedy.

Masses of bright flowers and fresh floral leis from the Big Island symbolized the love and grief felt by Islanders at the ser-

vice.

At the Houston service President Ronald Reagan eulogized each of the five men and two women who died aboard the shuttle: Onizuka, Francis "Dick" Scobee, Michael Smith, Judith Resnik, Ronald McNair, Gregory Jarvis and Christa McAuliffe, the New England school teacher picked to be the first private citizen in space.

"Sometimes, when we reach for the stars, we fall short, but we must pick ourselves up again and

press on despite the pain," the president said. "Man will continue his conquest of space."

Ten thousand people gathered outside the Avionics Building at the Johnson Space Center for the ceremony.

The president and his wife, Nancy, afterward offered their personal condolences to the families of the late astronauts, accompanying their words of sympathy with hugs and handshakes for family members.



Hawaii County Council honors space pioneer

The Hawaii County Council last week adopted the following resolution in honor of Kona astronaut Lt. Col. Ellison Onizuka:

WHEREAS, Lt. Col. Ellison Onizuka, Hawaii's own astronaut, brought honor and distinction to his family, friends, and the people of the State and County of Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, Ellison Onizuka proved that any one individual, even a small town boy from Keolu, Kona, with desire, commitment and determination can make a contribution to America's space exploration program; and

WHEREAS, this very special young man inspired many people, especially youngsters, with his sincerity, courage and dedication; and

WHEREAS, he instilled in us the sense that we can achieve and accomplish our dreams if we apply ourselves; and

WHEREAS, Ellison Onizuka will forever remain as one of the nation's outstanding heroes and will always be cherished as the State of Hawaii's pioneer in the future of space exploration.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Council of the County of Hawaii that it mourns the loss of its native son, Lt. Col. Ellison Onizuka, and extends its deepest sympathy and condolences to his family.



—UPI photo

COMFORTING THE SURVIVORS—Nancy Reagan comforts Mitsue Onizuka, mother of astronaut Ellison Onizuka, while President Reagan shakes

the hand of Steve McAuliffe, husband of teacher astronaut Christa McAuliffe, at Houston memorial service for the seven Challenger crew members.



—NASA photo

STUDENT ASTRONAUT—Ellison Onizuka rose to his feet and loosened his gear following a training exercise for astronaut candidates in 1978. The summer exercises took place at Vance Air Force Base in Oklahoma.

Make your life count

'... the world will be a better place'

"Communications is an area where there will be enormous progress from the space program. We need this badly. Many a problem in this world can be solved if and when human beings really learn to communicate," astronaut Ellison Onizuka told the Konawaena High School class of 1980 in a June commencement address delivered in the school gym.

"... If I can impress on you only one idea tonight, let it be that the people who make this world run, whose lives can be termed successful, whose names will go down in the history books, are not the cynics, the critics, or the armchair quarterbacks.

"They are the adventurers, the explorers, and doers of this world. When they see a wrong or a problem, they do something about it. When they see a vacant place in our knowledge, they work to fill that void.

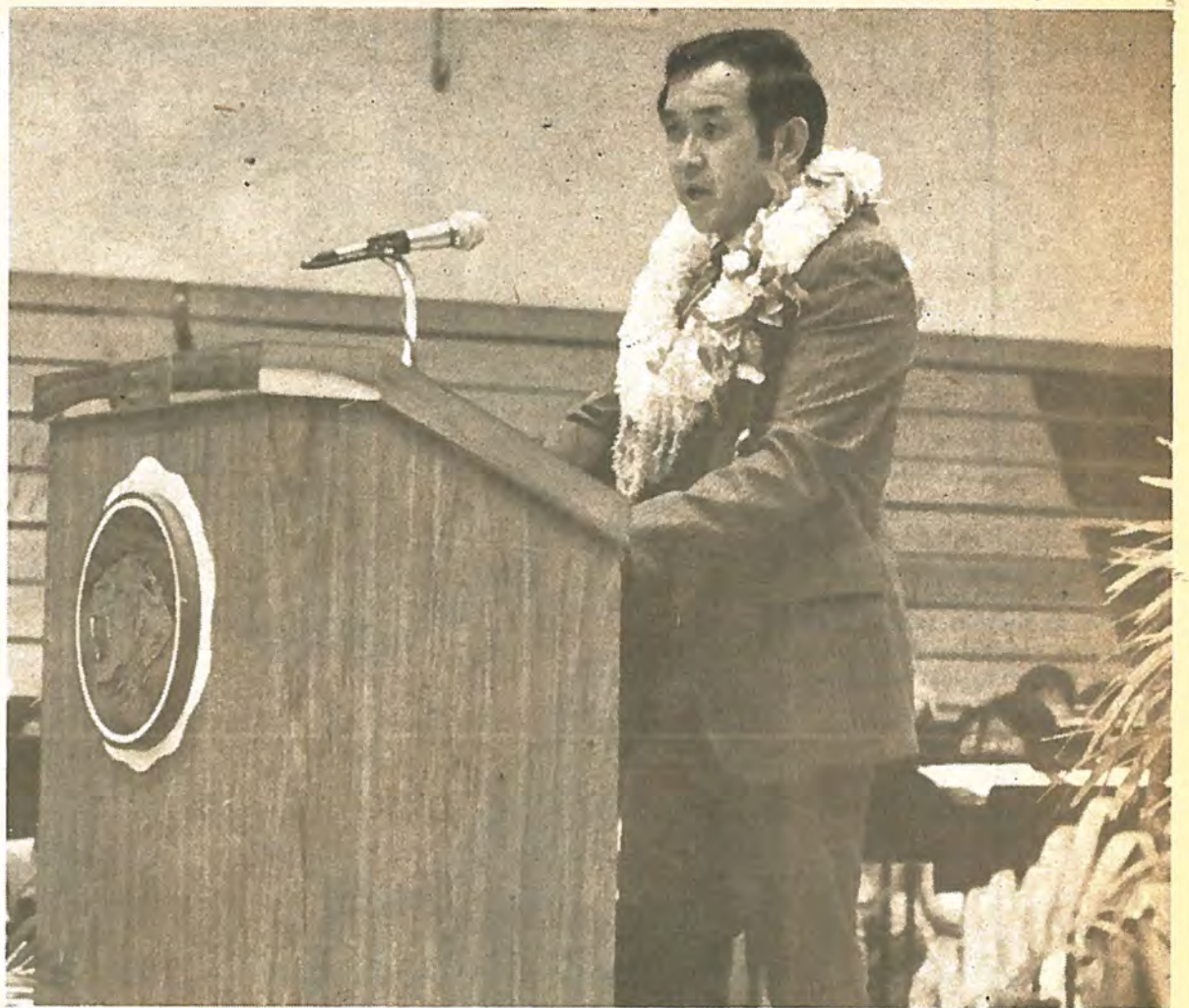
"Rather than leaning back and criticizing how things are, they work to make things the way they should be. They are the aggressive, the self-starters, the innovative, and the imaginative of this world.

"... Every generation has the obligation to free men's minds for a look at new worlds ... to look out from a higher plateau than the last generation.

"Your vision is not limited by what your eye can see, but by what your mind can imagine. Many things that you take for granted were considered unrealistic dreams by previous generations. If you accept these past accomplishments as commonplace then think of the new horizons that you can explore.

"From your vantage point, your education and imagination will carry you to places which we won't believe possible.

"Make your life count — and the world will be a better place because you tried," Onizuka told that year's graduating seniors at his alma mater. The astronaut was a 1964 graduate of Konawaena.



—T-H file photo

AT HIS ALMA MATER—The late astronaut Ellison Onizuka delivered the commencement address to the class of 1980 in June of that year in the Kona waena High School gym. Onizuka was a 1964 Konawaena graduate.

Kona students remember hero

"If there was anyone in this world I would like to be like, it would be him."

This excerpt from a moving tribute to the late astronaut Ellison Onizuka pretty much sums up the feelings of many of Hawaii's schoolchildren, who looked up to the Kona native as a hero worthy of emulation.

Following the shuttle tragedy, its author, Patrick Nakashima, and other students at Konawaena High School — Onizuka's alma mater — wrote of their love and respect for the 1964 Konawaena graduate.

Some of the essays, poems and letters follow:

To Ellison

I have been very fortunate to have the chance to meet Ellison Onizuka on several occasions. I must say that he is one of the greatest men that will ever come from the State of Hawaii.

I know many other people who in this position would have been very conceited and selfish. Ellison Onizuka was the most modest and unselfish man that I have ever met. I remember when

I was a cub scout, Ellison once taught me how to tie about seven different knots. He always talked to scouts about "how scouting will be an experience that you will cherish for the rest of your life." Ellison was also very kind and generous. Once instead of only inviting my mom and dad for dinner, he also invited me and my brother.

Ellison Onizuka was an Eagle Scout. An Eagle Scout is the "cream of the crop" and upholds the Scout Law, motto, and oath every day. A scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courte-

ous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent. This is the Scout Law. Ellison Onizuka upheld the Scout Law with pride and dignity. Ellison also upheld the oath:

On my honor, I will do my best
To do my duty, to God and my country

To obey the Scout Law,
To help other people at all times
To keep myself physically

strong,
Mentally awake, and morally straight

And also the motto and creed:
Do a good turn daily
Be prepared.

If there was anyone in this world I would like to be like, it would be him.

Bye, Ellison.

Patrick Nakashima

An inspiration

I remember one of the first events to take place after I moved to Kona was the return of Ellison Onizuka. He stood proud and tall in our gymnasium, his gymnasium. Around his neck were many leis; each one was proof of the love and pride our school, and all of Kona, had for him. I remember not even knowing who he was, but respecting him and taking pride in his accomplishments. I remember being amazed

at the great amount of respect our school had for him. We listened to his words and they found their way directly to our hearts. His words were one of wisdom and I will never forget them. He inspired me to follow my dreams wherever they may take me and not to let the risk of death stand in my way.

Yanna Lewis

Ellison Onizuka

Ellison Onizuka
a dreamer
who in his times
dreamed the impossible

Yet he strove
persistent and determined
while all was against him
always filled with hope

He finally accomplished his goal
achieved the impossible
reached his dream ...
only for a moment

Why the good always die
will forever be a mystery
maybe it's fate
we'll never know

We grieve,
for his dream

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STEPHANIE MURAI



CHRIS KIMURA



PATRICK NAKASHIMA

—T-H file photo

A HIT WITH THE KIDS — Hawaii's school children loved meeting astronaut Ellison Onizuka and hearing about what it's like to fly into space. Here Onizuka visited a Hilo area school following his first space mission last year.



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was ours as well
a symbol of hope for us

It seems a tragedy
a great loss
yet we can't overlook
his moment of triumph
his dream
of reaching the stars
once fulfilled

Didn't die in vain
instead died while striving,



ROY MORIGAWARA

striving to be the best
for what are winners
but those who try
never giving up
no matter what the odds
those few
like Ellison Onizuka

Stephanie Murai

Man of courage

Since the beginning of time,
there have been men of great
courage. Heroes. Men whose



LISA SUENAGA

bravery was not to be forgotten
within the pages of history. El-
lison Onizuka was a man whose
bravery has been proven. He was
a man worthy of being remem-
bered. To the people of Kona, El-
lison is the greatest hero that can
ever be mentioned by any history
book. He is an example, a hope to
everyone that we can attain any
goal if we make up our minds to do
it and work hard for it.

The sorrow that I feel inside of
me must be very minute com-
pared to the confusion and sad-
ness that all of his family
members are forced to endure.
The thought of so much pain,
when a person has lost a loved
one, frightens me. I have been
fortunate so far. I have not had
the experience of losing someone
so close to me. But I dread the day
when it comes.

There is so much inside of me
that I want to express, that I can-
not in the form of words. But I
guess nothing more is really
needed to be said. The expression
on everyone's faces in Kona tells
the story to me.

My deepest sympathy for the
family and friends of Ellison On-
izuka.

Roy Morigawara

My tribute

Ellison Onizuka was a proud yet
humble man, never forgetting
that his roots were buried in
Kona. He was an achiever, dedi-
cated to the space program, and
courageous, knowing from the
start that there was danger in-
volved. Ellison was an inspiration
and a hero, always achieving, and
inspiring others that their goals
could be attained even from a
small country school like Kona-
waena.

Ellison will not only be remem-
bered as being the first astronaut
from Hawaii, but as the great yet
humble man who inspired every-
one, especially the future gener-
ations of Kona with his will,
dedication, and courage to
achieve.

Christopher Kimura

To the family

Dear Onizuka Family,

I am very sorry for the un-
fortunate accident to the space
shuttle and to Ellison. I know say-
ing sorry must be a common thing
said to your family and I know I'm
just another person saying sorry
but I will sure miss him. I know
writing a letter won't bring him
back, nothing will, but he will

always be remembered by me as
a brave, courageous, and intelli-
gent man. Even though I didn't
know him personally, I feel that
he's like family because people in
Kona are like a family.

I admired Ellison for the way he
went about life. He had a dream
from when he was a boy and he
chased it until he achieved it. I
think he inspired many students,
so I think his spirit will be carried
on. He surely will be remembered
as one of the greatest men in
Kona. Nobody will forget him.

I don't know why God had to end
Ellison's life this way, in such a
tragedy, but I and everybody else
will have to accept it. It will be
hard but we must carry on with
life. Don't let this be a setback for
your family. I'm truly sorry for
this tragedy and, believe me, I
will miss him. Don't worry, there
are a lot of supporters in Kona and
we all will help out if needed.

Ellison was born in Kona
He was brave, courageous, and
had honor

He had a dream and achieved it
But now he is gone
Never to come back to Kona
He will be missed
He will always be remembered.

Sincerely yours,
Scot Yoshimura

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Memorial scholarship established

In the first few days after it was started, more than \$100,000 poured into the Ellison Onizuka Memorial Scholarship Fund.

The scholarship fund is intended "to perpetuate the memory of Lt. Col. Onizuka by providing a means whereby deserving youngsters in Hawaii can follow in his footsteps.

It was started by the Bank of Hawaii and the Hawaii Newspaper Agency. Criteria for selection of scholarship fund recipients will be made by a steering committee composed of government, business and civic officials in Hawaii, with Gov. George Ariyoshi serving as honorary

chairman.

"We can all take pride in both the number of contributors and, in many cases, the amount of money they are giving. It's obvious that people throughout Hawaii want to be a part of this memorial for Lt. Col. Onizuka," said H. Howard Stephenson, president of Bank of Hawaii.

Individuals and organizations wanting to contribute may make tax deductible contributions payable to the "Onizuka Scholarship Fund" at any Bank of Hawaii branch or by mailing their donations to: The Ellison Onizuka Memorial Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 3170, Honolulu, HI 96802.



—NASA photo

ASTRONAUT IN TRAINING—Mission specialist 1979 during a familiarization session for Onizuka astronaut candidate Ellison Onizuka listens to a briefing on the mission operations control room in at Johnson Space Center.

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In sympathy

As a Konawaena student I feel closely touched by this tragedy; for I realized the day I first saw Onizuka in person at an assembly honoring his upcoming shuttle flight, how alike he was to my fellow students. His life was a successful and honorable one even though it came to such a tragic end. I sympathize with the families involved and hope that if they band together it will be easier to accept and remember with respect what great pioneers the passengers of that flight were.

Came McMurray



SCOT YOSHIMURA

Stunned, shocked

Stunned and shocked is everyone across the nation in reaction to the space shuttle Challenger disaster. It is a tragic loss for all. Kona's own Ellison S. Onizuka and the others on board are great American heroes.

Dear Ellison,

Last year when you came back home to Kona, I felt very proud as a local 4-H'er welcoming and greeting a very successful former 4-H'er. We worked hard and planned everything well to let you know that we Kona 4-H'ers truly admire and respect you. We never knew you but we really were happy to have been there. At the welcoming party I learned much about your past life — a



LILLIAN MATSUMOTO

very successful and unbelievably adventurous life. The supreme qualities and talents you possessed inspired all of us there. You really kept your word to the 4-H'er motto and served it. Your accomplishments and leadership skills were far beyond anyone in Kona at the present time. But since you "told" us of your dream and ambition and, most of all, your desire, many of us 4-H'ers and Kona children realized that we can accomplish the impossible.

Many Kona people and students and teachers of Konawaena never knew you, but felt as if they knew you personally and could brag about Kona's own product venturing out in a realistic dream in space. We are all proud of you, your accomplishments and dedication.

We Kona people of Japanese ancestry are also very proud of you; Japan, and its people, too. Ariyoshi is a rising factor also, but you really brought a minority race out into the world. It is not just the Japanese, or the Kona people, or the people of Hawaii, but the whole nation and world who recognized and admired your dedication and services you offered to the people of the world. Of course, we also acknowledge the other heroes on board.

Ellison, I will always uphold you and your accomplishments in my mind so that I, too, may become as successful in my own field. You are an inspiration and a hero / legend to all of Kona, Ha-

waii, the U.S., and the world, in which you served and dedicated your life to.

Lisa Suenaga

Our friend

I heard the news
it was like lighting a fuse
to see our man
go as far as he can
for this man you were
was placed above
it was hard to believe
that this could be
it all seems like a total mystery

You were there
I was here
I never thought you'd disappear
the words you spoke
the knowledge you wrote
will be a message for all to
share.

With love,
Stacie

A dream

A Konawaena graduate,
with a dream of success.
He made it to the top
with none other than the best.
For he was our first
to be noted with honor.
He was our dream
from the past and the future,
A dream shared by all
who cherished success.
It will be an event
which no one will forget
For you are the one
who brought us to our feet
and showed us the way
to follow a dream
The dream can only be made

if we follow your footsteps.
Success is bound to be ahead.

Deedee Debina

One of us

You were one of us,
You spent your high school
years
Doing your best to strive for
your one goal.
You made it to your goal.
To space you have gone
And have come back to us;
But now as you took your
Last flight into the air
In a bright ball of fire,
You cease to exist.

All of us who knew you
And those who didn't
Grieve for you and have much
pride
For one so great.
We pray that you find the peace,
The contentment that you right-
fully deserve.

You were one of us
Doing your best to strive for
your own goal.
Now you have made your goal
and
Reached the stars.
You are our star
A symbol of hope
To all who have
What seems an unreachable
goal.

You gave us hope because
You were one of us.

Melody Kimm

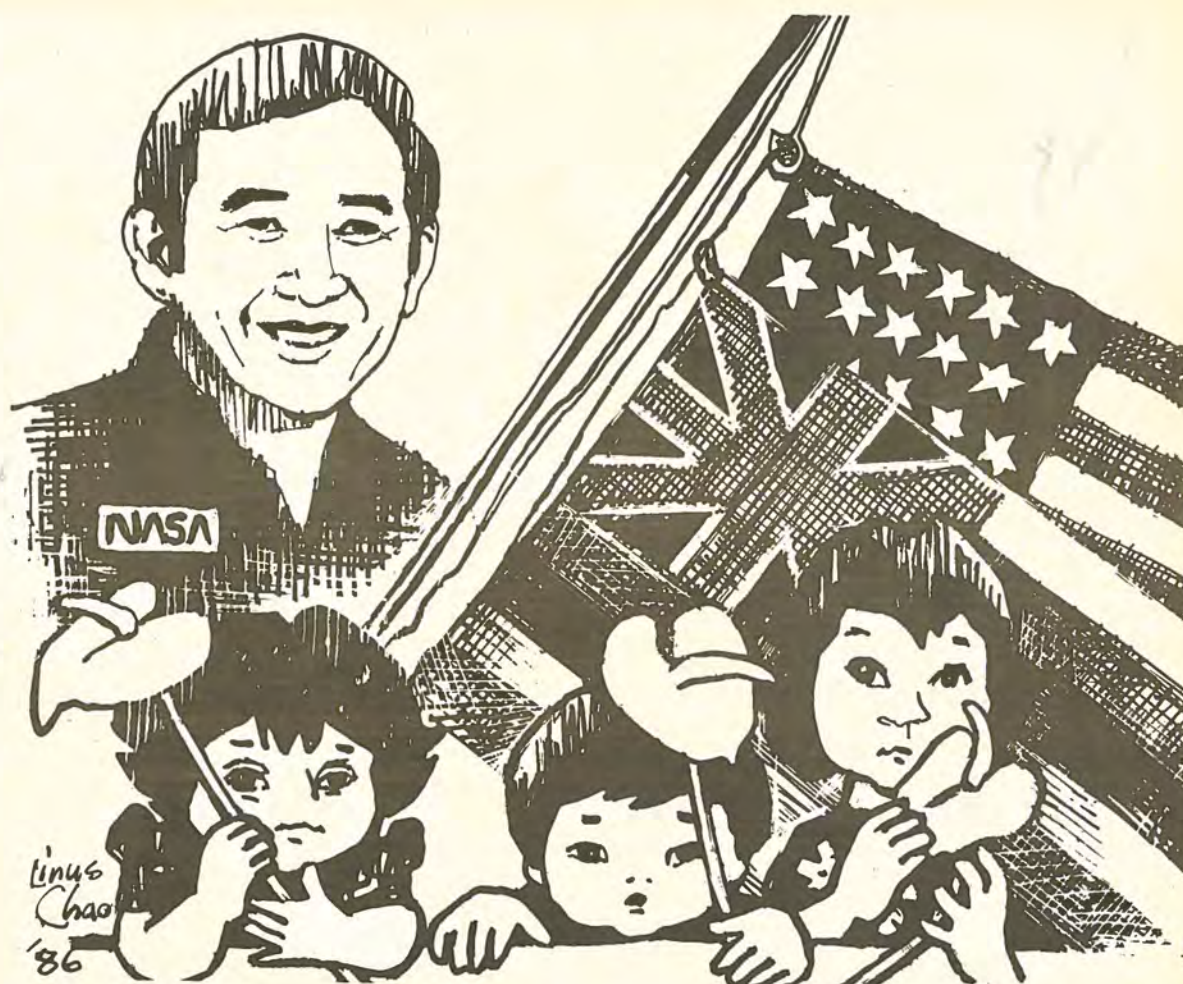
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All Hawaii remembers

The late Lt. Col. Ellison Onizuka frequently gave public and private thanks for the "wonderful" people of his home state whose "love, support and aloha spirit" helped him achieve his dream of becoming an astronaut.

A modest and humble hero, he showed great patience in dealing with the demands of being thrust into the public spotlight. He would sit amidst a sea of school children — up to his ears in leis bestowed by the children — and tell the youngsters about his trip into space and the importance of America's space program.

Onizuka always found time to share of himself with others. The love he felt for the people of Hawaii was reciprocal. As Hilo artist Linus Chao illustrates in this drawing, all Hawaii mourns the tragic and untimely death of the astronaut.



Hawaii's leaders remember Onizuka

"Hawaii will not forget Ellison Onizuka," Gov. George Ariyoshi said as he ordered all state flags flown at half-staff in memory of the seven astronauts who perished in the shuttle explosion.

"My thoughts at this time focus immediately on their families, especially the family and friends of astronaut Ellison Onizuka of Kona, many of whom were at Cape Canaveral.

"...Our aloha and sympathy goes out to them during this extremely difficult period, Ariyoshi said.

"The people of Hawaii also join me at this tragic time in expressing our deepest feelings of compassion and sympathy for the family and friends of the others who were on board the Challenger.

"Ellison visited us one year ago in Hawaii. He inspired us with his courage. He lifted our spirits and made all of us in Hawaii very proud," said the governor. "He instilled in us a sense of tremendous accomplishment, a sense that we can achieve if we apply ourselves."

Mayor Dante Carpenter said of Onizuka: "He

was a terrific guy, a beautiful person. Our heart goes out to the families of all the astronauts, especially the Onizuka family."

Carpenter also ordered that flags be lowered to half-staff at county facilities in memoriam to the seven astronauts.

"This is a real, real tragedy for all of us," Carpenter said. "I think we've tended to forget just how dangerous these missions are."

U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye said on the morning of the disaster: "I joined the rest of the nation in shock as I learned of the tragedy today at Cape Canaveral.

"I wish to extend my heart-felt condolences and sympathies to the families of members of the Challenger space shuttle. I knew astronaut Ellison S. Onizuka of Hawaii as an individual who faced the challenges and dangers of the space program in dedicated service to our nation.

"He and the other Challenger crew members will always be honored for their bravery, their pioneering achievements and their sacrifice to our nation," Inouye said.



FLAGS LOWERED—With the U.S. Capitol in the background, flags around the Washington Monument flew at half-staff as the nation mourned the victims of the space shuttle disaster. In Hawaii both the U.S. and Hawaii flags were lowered in tribute to the seven crew members, among them our own Ellison Onizuka.

KONA—

From Page 9

A great man

I have not had the honor to meet such an achiever as Ellison Onizuka. I took it for granted that he would be here forever. I thought that I could meet him later, since his true home is within a half mile from where I live.

I never realized how much he meant to me until this tragedy. Lt. Col. Onizuka has been an in-

spiration to me. Through his achievements, he has shown me that if I strive for my goal, I can reach it.

He was raised on a coffee farm in a small area called Keopu. Ellison was selected by NASA to become an astronaut years later. He was then the first Hawaii-born astronaut, and the first Japanese-American astronaut. This great success has given the Kona community something to be proud of.

The people of Kona are a part of a great big family. Thus, the tragic death of our "very own" Ellison Onizuka has left a huge gap in all of our lives.

I know that nothing can comfort his family after such a loss. However, I would like to extend my deepest condolences to the Onizuka family.

Ellison Onizuka, you have been a great inspiration to me. I will remember you always.

Lillian Matsumoto

You gave love

Just a few months ago
You entered our hearts,
when you shared with us
Your beautiful dream,
The dream you shared
Was the dream of "success!"

And fulfilling your destiny.
You made Konawaena proud
As you shared your dreams
aloud.

You gave me hope
So I could cope
With the feeling in me
To reach my destiny
As you have reached yours.
You are my inspiration,
You gave us love
And preparation,
to fulfill our destinations.

Waynette Ho

Our hero

Born and raised in the land of
"Aloha,"
Hawaii's very own Ellison On-

izuka.

Of him we were proud and now
we are sad,
Of the tragic mission he just
had.

He was a hero along with six
others,
We lost them all, our countries,
brothers.

They were going into space to
observe the heavens,
Which they now be in, all of the
seven.

For a little while the space shut-
tles will be ceased,
For the seven astronauts may
they all rest in peace!!!

RONALD KAHALIOUMI



WITH ALOHA—Kona district Boy Scouts signed a scroll wishing Eagle Scout Ellison Onizuka a successful space flight prior to the Kona astronaut's first space mission a year ago.

Scouting helped him to 'be prepared'

An Eagle Scout, astronaut Ellison Onizuka considered his growth and experiences in the Boy Scouts of America program a major "positive influence" in his life.

"The leadership, self-confidence and development of personal attributes ingrained into today's youth by the scouting program is tremendous. I always remember the great things the program taught me and I am thankful that there were dedicated people like you who were there to help, teach and guide us," Onizuka wrote in a letter to Norman Sakata, his former Boy Scout adviser, in November of 1982.

"When I stop to think of the many hours, programs and events Matthew Heneralau and you devoted to our exploring experience, the 60-80-hour weeks of training to get ready for STS-10 (his oft-postponed initial space mission) next year become very insignificant," Onizuka told Sakata.

The astronaut sent his best regards to the "many devoted and dedicated individuals" who would be attending a Kona district scouting recognition banquet.

"Scouting is a great program and it needs the support of people who have the resolve to make the

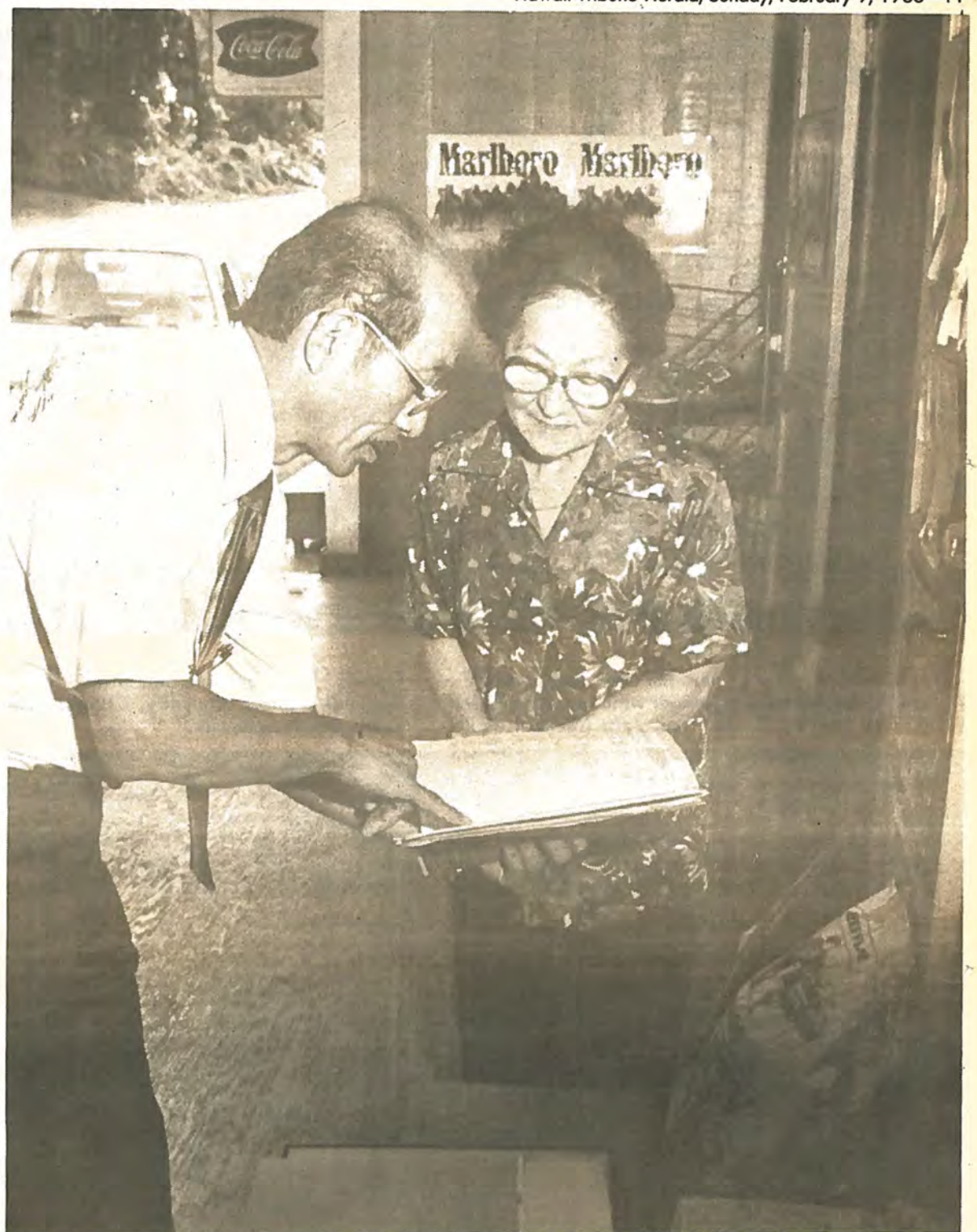


ELLISON ONIZUKA
... at age 17

next day better. It is only because of people like those at the banquet that others like me can grow up in the coffee fields of Kona and fly on the space shuttle.

"As Alan Shepard once said, 'It's easy to reach out and touch the moon when you're standing on the shoulders of giants'—you are all 'giants.' Thank you for helping me to 'Be Prepared,'" Onizuka told Sakata in the 1982 letter.

In late December 1985, in his last letter to Sakata, Onizuka told the Kona scouting executive he



—T-H file photo.

LOYAL TO SCOUTING—Norman Sakata, Ellison Onizuka's former Boy Scout adviser, has an impressive library of scouting records going back many, many years. Prior to Onizuka's first space mission a year ago he found some old meeting records from when Onizuka was a scout in Ho-

lualoa and showed them to the astronaut's mother, Mitsue Onizuka, at the family's Keopu store. Onizuka, an Eagle Scout, credited the scouting program with having a major influence on his life.

was looking forward to Sakata attending the Jan. 28 launch of the Challenger, and sent a message to be read at January's annual Kona recognition banquet for the scouting program.

Onizuka congratulated those honored at the banquet, and again thanked all involved in the program for the role they've played in his own life.

"We of the astronaut office at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Tex., support your efforts and are justly proud of being associated with you.

"As fellow scouts, I and many of my colleagues know that the lessons derived from scouting experiences in good citizenship, effective leadership, and self-discipline, help in the preparation for adult responsibilities.

"The need is great for men who hold high values as 'duty to God

and country,' and 'duty to other,' and for men who know the true meaning of 'the good turn.' The first eight words of the scout oath express a philosophy worthy of remembering as we tackle the many tasks and decisions that confront us every day of our lives.

"On my honor I will do my best' has numerous meanings and can exert a potent influence for a meaningful future. Thank you for the opportunity to share in the 1986 annual Boy Scout recognition and installation banquet.

"As a former scout and current member of the National Association of Eagle Scouts, I want to thank all of you for helping me 'be prepared.' My heartiest congratulations to all of you who are being honored tonight. I salute all of you on a well-deserved honor and wish all of you continued success in scouting," Onizuka wrote

the Kona scouts, through Sakata, in December.

Sakata still has a copy of the constitution and bylaws Onizuka wrote for Explorer Post 26 in Ho-lualoa on Dec. 31, 1963 when he was a senior in high school.

The content of excerpts from those documents indicate the exemplary citizen and human being Onizuka already had become at that time.

Among the objectives proposed by Onizuka and ratified by the post on Jan. 8, 1964, were the following: "To encourage better citizenship; to promote student leadership; to develop social and moral character; to curb delinquency; to serve the community, state and nation; to stimulate independency to alleviate the burden on parents; to encourage physical fitness."



—UPI photo

TRAGIC FLIGHT—These were the crew members of the ill-fated space shuttle Challenger which exploded after launch on Jan. 28. Seated from left: Michael Smith,

Francis "Dick" Scobee, and Ronald McNair. Back row from left: Ellison Onizuka, Christa McAuliffe, Greg Jarvis, and Judy Resnik.



—UPI photo

SALUTE TO DEPARTING HEROES—A Lockheed employee raised his hand as if he were saluting as he watched Challenger explode in the air shortly after lift-off.



—T-H file photo

IN MEMORY OF THE SEVEN ASTRONAUTS—Albert S. Nishimura, president of the Hilo Hongwanji Mission, eulogized the astronauts during a memorial service

held Jan. 29 at the Buddhist temple, saying they will be remembered by the people of Hawaii as their heroes.



—T-H file photo

ALOHA, ELLISON—Hawaii's first lady, Jean Ariyoshi, right, was among those who turned out to honor astronaut Ellison Onizuka at last March's testimonial dinner at Kona Surf.

In remembrance

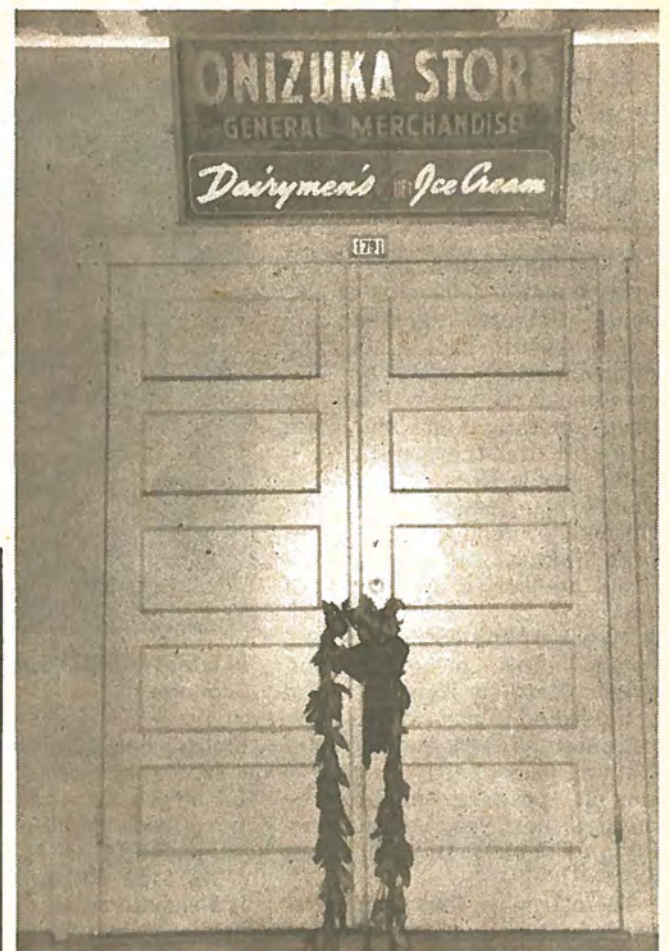
The Big Island and the state have joined the nation in an outpouring of grief and sorrow over the Jan. 28 space shuttle tragedy.

For those in Hawaii who had come to know Lt. Col. Ellison Onizuka, the sense of loss was immediate and personal.

All Hawaii mourns his tragic and untimely passing, and our hearts go out to his family.

This special section — a tribute to the Kona-born astronaut — was prepared by the Tribune-Herald, with help from Kona residents Fred Fujimoto, Norman Sakata and Jerry Seely, and other Big Island residents.

—Editor



—Photo by Jerry Seely

REMEMBERING A NATIVE SON—A black bow and a maile lei hung on the door knobs of the Onizuka Store in Keolu, expressing the sadness of Kona residents.