**Walker Speech [EZ Speech No. 16618]**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Remarks by Mr. William Walker at the Tricentennial Anniversary celebration of Horsham, PA.

citizens of horsham, ladies and gentlemen, and all of the special guests who’re here with us this evening: on behalf of the township councel of horsham, pennsyl-vania, i welcome you to our tricentennial gala celebra-tion, marking 300 years of history, and looking forward to years more of innovation and progress.

how often does a city or a township or *any* municipality get the chance to litteraly redefine itself, create a new identity, a new image, and transform itself from a sleepy “bedroom community” into a vibrant new center of excellence for industrial research and development, an incubator for all sorts of new business enterprises, a model of environmental sustainabily, and a shining example of “green” community planning?

the answer is: darned few!

as you well know, horsham’s been given this unique opportunity with the closing six years ago of the willow grove naval air station. even as we gather here this evening, the navy’s continuing its work of shut-tering the base, clearing the land of environmental contamination, and preparing to hand this thousand-acre site over the horsham land redevelopment authority.

Now, many townships would be devasted by the closing of so large and prominent an installation as willow grove, comprising fully a tenth of its total land area. but not horsham.

where others might’ve seen catastrophe, we see opportunity. where others might’ve viewed all the soon-to-be empty land as a pink elephant, we’ve chosen to view it as a clean slate upon which to write the future of our township in our own terms, according to our own lights and our own dreams. and it’s because of this unprecented opportunity, i think it’s safe to say that this is going to be without a doubt the most dramatic and hopeful time in our township’s 300-year history, and I for one am enormously excited about being involved in this renaissance.

i know that our township councel shares this same excitement for what our future holds in store. and i’m sure they’re looking forward as much as i am to being a part of it. so let me take a moment now to introduce the members of our township council, to both acknowledge and thank them for their vision and their leadership. in alphabetical order, they are [add titles if you wish]: tom johnson, mark mccouch, gregory nesbitt, deborah tustin, and william whiteside.

in closing, i also want to thank the dozens and dozens of individuals, businesses, and organizations who, through their dedication of time and their financial support, have made this tricentennial celebration such a wonderfully success.

[introduce the next speaker or event.]

**# # #**