**West Point plans to salute Buffalo Soldiers with statue**

"They served ... quietly, confidently, skillfully"

Michael E. Burns

LUBBOCK, Texas — Late into the night, he sat in his studio on Avenue X, surround - ed by props and tools and diagrams of the human form, sculptor Eddie Dixon worked on the Buffalo Soldier’s face. It was the hardest part of the epox - ious statue he was making for the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. The only pictures he had of the late Sgt. Sanders H. Matthews Sr. were photos of him as an elderly man, or with a smile. So before he began to sculpt in clay, Dixon, 73, sat down in his converted fire - house here and began to sketch. He elim - inated Matthews’ smile, and de-aged his face until he had the image of a seri - ous-looking African-American soldier in his prime. Dixon went on to complete his model of Matthews, believed to be the last known Buffalo Soldier to serve at West Point. And one day early this month, he passed his studio in a dark baseball cap as an expert from a foundry began slicing it apart with a razor and a pipe saw. It was one of the final steps in the proj - ect to get a bronze version of the model ready for installation this summer at West Point. There, it will honor the lit - tle-known unit of Black soldiers that ..."