

scant time for reflection or reasoned analysis. Market forces demand instantaneous information and jarring entertainment values, not sober analysis or wisdom. The news media are more prone to focus on the loudest, the most outrageous, and the most partisan actors. And given the rise of the political consultant class, candidates and campaigns are louder, more outrageous, and meta-partisan. Political consultants have helped create a permanent campaign where politics takes precedence over governance. The political consultants egg on all this for profit, creating controversy where little or none exists so the message, the theme of the day, is played out on TV and the media. They're paid handsomely to cause strife and create conflict in order to raise hackles, money, and attention . . . fomenting issues to suit their agenda. It's all about the message, not the solution, not the negotiation, the debate, the compromise to move forward. It's about who is controlling the message, who is defining the message, who is creating the message, who is keeping the conflict alive often where none existed before the consultant decided one was needed. Is this what keeps us at each other's throats?

Is it talk radio, attack TV? Is it the talk shows, the shout festivals where absolute hyperbole is the only currency? Mean-spirited hyperbole and hyper-partisanship breeds cynicism. Citizens are increasingly cynical about politics and about their government's ability to work. The damage to the ship of state, to the fabric of the nation begs repair. Whose job is it to change course and effect the necessary repairs? I'm not sure I have the answer to that, but I propose that in a room full of policy makers and politicians, men and women who talk to the media, who work in the public arena, who hire consultants, who set agendas, maybe we have a role to play in making things better.

You know, I can say that there are some people in this room, people I consider dear friends, who understand this problem and I believe share my concern. To those friends I say, you and I both know that we disagree very fundamentally on some very big issues but the truth is that we could care less about our disagreements and are more concerned about where we can find consensus and reasons to work and live together to construct a better future. I consider this kind of commitment to trust and open dialogue crucial to maintaining a sustainable society.

And indeed, isn't it about building a better future for our community, for our country, for our children? I say that even on the most intractable of issues, there is room for constructive debate, for consensus building, for the search for some common ground.

President Johnson once said to his Democratic colleague, Gov. George Wallace of Alabama, during the crisis of civil rights in the South: "What do you want left behind? You want a great, big marble monument that says, 'George Wallace: He built.' Or do you want a little piece of scrawny pine lying there that says, 'George Wallace: He hated'?"

The people I know in this room are builders. But we are confronting a world today where hate seems to be a predominant factor in the crisis of incivility confronting our politics.

Where are the rules that govern conduct? What happens eventually after this continuous rancor tears the fabric of our society completely asunder? Can we survive with this tenor . . . taking no prisoners, giving no quarter?

I'm asking these questions because you folks here are blessed with skills, talent, experience and a commitment to a positive public policy. You understand the importance of maintaining and protecting our

commonweal where we strive to serve our clients, our community, our country, and our state. If civil discourse self-destructs, we cannot move on the issues that matter. Think of this as an environmental crisis . . . the environment being our civil society and our very ability to live and work and prosper together.

I don't want to sound pious or preachy here, but if we are to prevail as a free, self-governing people, we must work together. We shouldn't try to destroy our opponents just because we disagree. We have to govern our tongues. The Proverbs tells us, chapter 18, verse 12, "Death and life are in the power of the tongue." How we choose to use words—for good or for wrong—is clearly our choice. The health of our democracy depends upon a robust public discourse.

Recognize that I am not saying that conflict in our political life is to be avoided. Hardly so. It is not only proper but necessary for candidates to vigorously debate the issues of our day and examine their opponents' records. Don't let people confuse civility with goody two-shoes niceness and mere etiquette. Civility is a robust, tough, substantive civic virtue, critical to both civil society and the future of our republic. Civility entails speaking directly, passionately, and responsibly about who we are and what we believe. Divisions based on principles are healthy for the nation. Vigorous and passionate debate helps us to define issues and to sharpen positions.

Conflict cannot, should not be avoided in our public lives any more than we can avoid conflict with the people we love. But just as member of a household, as a family learn ways of settling their differences without inflicting real damage on each other, so we, in our politics, must find constructive ways of resolving disputes and differences.

Our work is here. We build from the base. We will foster change first by our example . . . by working together, respecting one another, and negotiating our differences in good faith and with mutual respect. Civility is neither a small nor inconsequential issue. The word comes from the French *civilité* which is often translated as "politeness." But it means much more. It suggests an approach to life . . . living in a way that is civilized. The words "civilized," "civilité," and "city" share a common etymology with a word meaning "member of the household." To be civilized is to understand that we live in a society as in a household. There are certain rules that allow family members to live peacefully within a household. So, too, are there rules of civility that allow us to live peacefully within a society. As we all learned in 1st grade a long time ago, we owe certain responsibilities to one another. Perhaps we spend a lifetime learning how to play well with others. So be it. It is a crucial goal for a civil society. Thank you.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE OF J.E. "GENE" SMITH

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. J.E. "Gene" Smith, a national and community leader who is retiring from almost thirty years of service with the Choctawhatchee Electric Cooperative. Gene spent his career serving others and giving back to our community, and I am proud to honor this dedication and service.

As the son of a gas utility worker, Gene became interested in utility work at a young age. He began his career with Huntsville Utilities in Huntsville, Alabama before moving to another utility job in Jefferson City, Tennessee. By the time Gene was 28, he was manager of a Sweetwater, Tennessee utility. In 1978, he moved to the world of electric cooperatives and went to work as the general manager of Escambia River Electric Cooperative in Jay, Florida. Three years later, Gene moved a few miles east to DeFuniak Springs to work for the Choctawhatchee Electric Cooperative (CHELCO). He has served as Chief Executive Officer and General Manager of CHELCO since 1981.

While at CHELCO, Gene has made a lasting impression on the electric cooperative community. He served on the board of the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation from 1988 to 1993 with two years spent as the board's president. He also served on the board of the National Cooperative Services Corporation from 1995 to 2003 and as a trustee on the PowerSouth Energy Cooperative Board, representing CHELCO since 1981. Gene has been chairman of the Florida Electric Cooperative Association and the National Food and Energy Council Board. Because of his outstanding work on behalf of electric cooperatives, Gene was featured in *American Executive Magazine* in 2007. In February, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Board of Directors will present Gene with the Clyde T. Ellis Award. This award recognizes an individual who goes above and beyond the call of duty in furthering the principles and progress of rural electrification and the development and utilization of natural resources.

Beyond his expansive career accomplishments, Gene Smith has spent a lifetime dedicated to community service. He serves on the United Way of Okaloosa and Walton Counties, the Board of Trustees of Northwest Florida State College, the Okaloosa County Economic Development Council Executive Committee, and the Rotary Club. He is also a very active member of the All Sports organization which raises money for local youth-oriented non-profit organizations with an emphasis on sports. Local beneficiaries include the YMCA, Boys & Girls Club, and Special Olympics.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am honored to recognize Gene Smith for his service to the people of the United States. He is a dedicated community servant and national business leader. My wife Vicki and I wish all the best for Gene and his family as they embark on this next endeavor in their lives.

W. HAZEN HILLYARD POST OFFICE BUILDING

SPEECH OF

HON. ROB BISHOP

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2009

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, individuals like Hazen Hillyard deserve to be remembered and honored, and that is why I'm happy to sponsor this legislation to name the Smithfield Post Office after him. His life was a hallmark of dedicated public service, at the level

closest to the people where it really matters and makes a difference.

That service included time as President of the Kiwanis Club, many years on the City Library Board, work as Chairman of the Smithfield Historical Heritage Society and multiple terms on the Smithfield City Council.

He was an active member of the Cache Valley Council of the Boy Scouts of America, and in 1961 received the Silver Beaver Award in recognition of his long time service in the scouting program.

The Smithfield Lion's Club honored Hazen in 1974 with its Outstanding Citizen of the Year award.

Hazen Hillyard was appointed Postmaster of Smithfield in 1934. At the time of his appointment, there was no house-to-house mail delivery in the city, so residents were required to go to the Post Office for their mail. Hazen enjoyed interacting with the people as they stopped at the general delivery window for their mail and for other mail services. He was very involved in the Utah chapter of the National Postmasters Association and was even elected President of the state chapter in 1952. He visited all of the post offices in Utah during that year of service.

As the population of Smithfield increased, Mr. Hillyard recognized the need for expanded and better postal facilities. He was successful in getting a new, larger building for the post office in 1957. In 1963 he completed arrangements for city delivery of the mail to houses in Smithfield.

A letter from the city manager of Smithfield says, "The citizens of Smithfield City have long appreciated and admired the legacy of W. Hazen Hillyard. As a city we strongly encourage and support an effort to rename the Smithfield Post Office in recognition of his lifetime of service and achievement."

When Hazen grew older he still was very interested in the improvement and advancement of Smithfield. His life and service clearly prove that he loved the people and the community, and I'm honored to help the United States House of Representatives acknowledge and recognize that.

COMMENDING CENTURYLINK'S COMMITMENT TO LOUISIANA

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, it is with deep appreciation for this company's many contributions to Louisiana that I rise today to commend CenturyLink.

The telecommunications provider has an impressive track record of success. In July, CenturyLink was formed through the acquisition of Embarq Corporation by CenturyTel Inc., becoming the nation's fourth largest traditional telephone company. It is currently one of three Fortune 500 companies headquartered in Louisiana, and more importantly, it has been one of the state's top private-sector employers for many years.

CenturyLink, which has approximately 20,000 employees in 33 states, announced yesterday it will add 350 jobs in Louisiana while maintaining its headquarters in Monroe for at least the next decade.

The recent decision by CenturyLink to stay and grow in the Monroe area is a testament to the strong and skilled workforce found in Northeast Louisiana. During this time of economic uncertainty, CenturyLink is actively working to create new jobs in our communities. I am confident the remarkable progression of CenturyLink will continue to provide great opportunities for the residents of our area.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting CenturyLink and its commitment to building a stronger Louisiana.

RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA JAGUARS

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I am very proud to bring to the attention of the House the outstanding achievement of the University of South Alabama Jaguar football team. The University of South Alabama is located in my Congressional district.

During 2009, the NCAA Division III Jaguars, under head coach Joey Jones, delivered a perfect 7-0 season.

The undefeated Jaguars made history not only for their unblemished record on the gridiron this year, but also for the fact that until this year, the Jaguars never had a football team. What's more, they didn't even have a marching band until this year.

The Jaguars' 2009 inaugural season was nothing short of a Cinderella performance, capped by an impressive 35-0 final game victory over the Huntingdon College Hawks on November 12. The average inaugural season game attendance was an impressive 18,000.

Speaking at USA's Media Day on November 16, Jaguars Head Coach Joey Jones put their victory into context: "Number one, it makes a statement that South Alabama is here to build a Division I football program."

This summer the Jaguars took on a daunting task and they defied the odds by building on the basics and truly working together as a team. With this winning combination, they will surely succeed in reaching Division I.

I would like to congratulate the USA coaching staff and the team: Head coach Joey Jones and coaches Bill Clark, Kurt Crain, Greg Gregory, Mitch Rodrigue, John Turner, Jeff Bailey, Barrett Parker, Dameyune Craig, Chuck Dunn, Tommy Perry, Brian Turner, Duwan Walker, Brendt Bedsole, and Justin Schwind.

The USA Jaguars: Aiman Al-Selwadi, Kendell Bagnerise, Ken Barefield, Cori Barnett, Ryne Baxter, Nick Bear, Logan Bennett, Paul Bennett, Corey Besteda, Heath Blount, Kevin Bone, Jake Bowen, Chase Brown, Christian Brown, Zach Brownell, Chris Brunson, Nick Brunson, Eddy Cabrera, Randon Carnathan, Sean Ceballos, Michel Chapuseaux, Josh Chestang, Trey Clark, Chris Cooke, Richard Courtney, Clifton Crews, Andy Dalgleish, Josh Dees, Marquise Diamond, Jaime Driskell, Justin Dunn, Drew Ezell, Darrow Fisher, Lionel Fuentes, Scott

Garber, Lamontis Gardner, Myles Gibbon, Gabe Graham, Anton Graphenreed, Sean Greenwood, Jon Griffin, Brett Hancock, Dalvin Harris, Danzel Harris, Tim Harvey, Gage Hayes, Kevin Helms, Charlie Higgenbotham, Ellis Hill, Greg Hollinger, Bryson James, Dustin James, Kenneth Johnson, Romelle Jones, Sean Kennedy, Brian Krauskopf, James Land, Bryant Lavender, T.J. Lawrence, John Leech, Corwin Malone, Andrew Martin, Gabriel Mass, Santuan McGee, Lawson McGlon, Darrius McMullin, Jordan Means, Tyler Miller, Jerron Mitchell, Anthony Mostella, Jerry Nettles, Taylor Noon, Chad Orrell, Nick Owens, Jeremy Pacillo, Alex Page, Andrew Paschall, John Mark Patrick, Steven Pease, Alex Phifer, Cory Pittman, Rob Powell-Deppe, Philip Press, Chris Pugh, Erling Riis, Donte Rome, Zack Rone, Brandon Ross, Richard Ross, Matt Saucier, Donald Scott, Ryan Scott, Paul Silvey, Brennan Sim, Levi Slaydon, Courtney Smith, Eli Smith, Tremain Smith, Chris Stitt, Robby Stoner, Alex Tamariz, Anthony Taylor, Josh Terry, Tony Threath, Ralph Turner, Gabe Ukwuoma, Kelly Vail, Corey Waldon, Justin Walker, Carlton Wallace, Zac Westmoreland, Alex Williams, Enrique Williams, Montavious Williams, Michael Wilson and Lim Windham.

Much credit also goes to President Gordon Moulton and the Board of Trustees and the alumni for their vision and support of the inaugural USA football program.

The Jaguars' story is inspiring to us all, and I know that I speak for the entire community when I wish them congratulations on a job well done.

Can't wait for 2010. Go Jags!

HONORING THE LIFE OF LT. COL. (RET.) RICHARD KLEIN DERRIDINGER

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I want to pay tribute to retired LTC Richard Klein Derridinger of Tampa, Florida, who passed away on September 4, 2009 after a long illness.

Dick was a successful businessman, decorated military veteran, and devoted family man. Born on March 4, 1932, in Easton, Pennsylvania, Dick grew up in Chambersburg. He was a hard working young man and a devoted Eagle Scout. He attended Corpus Christi School and played football at Chambersburg High School. Dick then attended Gettysburg College and joined the Air Force to fly in Vietnam.

Returning to the United States, Dick continued to serve as an instructor pilot for single engine fighters and became Captain of an air-refueling tanker for 6 years. His last assignment was Chief of Flight Tests at Rome Air Development Center where he earned the Flying Safety Award for saving the crew, passengers, cargo, and the aircraft after the KC-135 he was piloting experienced multiple mechanical failures. In addition to earning other decorations, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Bronze Star for Valor.

Dick earned his masters degree in Systems Management from the University of Southern