

Matthew Robertson. Matthew is a third year law student at Deakin University in Melbourne Australia. He applied to the program with the hope to learn more about the American government. Matthew's extensive knowledge of the Australian government and legal system enhances his understanding of the American legislative process. During his time at my office he had the opportunity to attend Committee hearings, briefings, perform legislative research, and prepare memos for my staff and myself. His professionalism in the office and willingness to handle any task that was assigned to him were outstanding. It has truly been a pleasure to have Matthew in the office.

I am certain that my colleagues were similarly impressed with the work done by the eleven other Australian students in the program. I rise to commend the Uni-Capitol Internship Program for its work to strengthen the relationship between the United States and Australia; and offer Matthew my thanks for a job well done.

A TRIBUTE TO T.J. PATTERSON

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, in celebration of Black History Month, I would like to recognize Thomas James "T.J." Patterson for his dedication to the 19th Congressional District of Texas, as well as his leadership in honoring Black History Month in Lubbock, Texas.

Born in Waxahachie, Texas on June 29, 1937, T.J. was raised in Wichita Falls and graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in 1954. He then went on to attend Bishop College and in 1958 received a degree in Physical Education. After graduation, T.J. came to Lubbock where he met and married his bride of over 50 years, Bobbie Gean.

In 1961, T.J. was drafted into the U.S. Army where he valiantly served his country. After an honorable discharge, T.J. spent several years teaching at the Texas Tech University. In 1977, T.J. co-founded the Southwest Digest, a newspaper that has served as a strong voice for Lubbock's African American community for over 30 years.

In 1984, T.J. was elected as the first African American to serve on the Lubbock City Council, breaking down barriers for others to serve in public offices throughout the community, and I had the honor of serving with T.J. on the City Council. After 20 years of serving as the representative for District 2, T.J. retired from the Lubbock City Council in 2004 as the longest serving council member in Lubbock's history. In addition to this service, T.J. was elected president of the Texas Municipal League in 1998, becoming the first African American president in that organization's history.

T.J. is an active member of the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church. He is a legend in Lubbock's fight against illegal drugs. Over the past several years, T.J. has organized and participated in countless marches against drugs and violence. T.J. is an incredible role model for not only African American children, but all youth.

T.J. and his wife have a branch of the Lubbock Public Library named after them, the

Bobbie Gean and T.J. Patterson Library, and the library hosts annual events in honor of Black History Month. They are pillars of the community and can be found visiting inmates in the local jail on Christmas Day offering messages of encouragement.

I am honored to know T.J. His message to us is that Black History is every day, not just one month out of the year. He is a hero, a public servant and a dreamer; a man of character and a faithful man of God. On behalf of the 19th Congressional District, including myself, I thank T.J. for all he has given and continues to give our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the House floor during Monday's two rollcall votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H.R. 4425 and H.R. 4238.

HONORING GEORGE CROUSE FOR BEING NAMED THE UNITED STATES TENNIS ASSOCIATION'S NEW ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL COACH OF THE YEAR

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate George Crouse for being named the New England High School Coach of the Year by the United States Tennis Association (USTA). This is a fitting title for a man who has served as a tennis coach at Stonington High School for 37 years and has amassed more than 600 wins in the process.

George Crouse is a consummate professional and enthusiastic coach whose achievements continue to amaze his colleagues both in Connecticut and around the country. His commitment to the academic success of his student athletes in the classroom, exceed only his record on the court. Since 1973 he has coached boys and girls teams at Stonington High, with the girls team having achieved a 341-96 record while reaching four consecutive Class S state championships. He was named the Connecticut Coach of the Year for both boys and girls tennis in 1998 and 2008, respectively.

The dedication he shows to his athletes is matched only by his passion for the sport of tennis. He is a member of the USTA Connecticut board of directors and operates the Stonington-Eastern Connecticut Community Tennis Association. In addition to coaching the teams of Stonington High, George coaches squads on the USTA Jr. Teams, leading them to state and sectional championships. George is also a public servant, serving in numerous volunteer roles and also as a member of the Stonington Board of Selectman.

I am grateful for Mr. Crouse's service and dedication to the town of Stonington. I am proud to call him a constituent and a friend.

The years of hard work that he has dedicated to improving the lives of countless athletes and members of his community will continue to define his life and his work.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION TO CELEBRATE THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RELEASE OF NELSON MANDELA AND HONOR HIS LIFELONG DEDICATION TO BUILDING A MORE EQUITABLE AND UNITED WORLD

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution that celebrates the 20th anniversary of Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela's release from prison and honors his lifelong dedication to building a more equitable and united world.

On February 11, 1990, Nelson Mandela exited Victor Verster Prison in Paarl, South Africa, after 27 years of imprisonment. Years of international pressure from activists, artists and politicians in South Africa and the international community had finally convinced the South African government to reinstate the African National Congress (ANC) as a legitimate political party, and release Nelson Mandela.

In the hours following his release, tens of millions around the world watched as Mandela stood at the City Hall in Cape Town and proclaimed his commitment to abolish apartheid and institute a system of government that protected the rights and freedoms of all people. For over 40 years, racial segregation was enforced under the law of apartheid, and severely restricted black South Africans and other people of color from basic human rights and social and economic equality.

Madam Speaker, Nelson Mandela never wavered from his commitment to combat apartheid and create a free and democratic country whether he was rallying support for the ANC as a young lawyer and activist, or serving as an inmate at the infamous prison on Robben Island. Decades of menial work and degrading conditions in South Africa's prisons did not make Nelson Mandela's drive to achieve a more just and equal society any less potent. Once released, 71-year-old Nelson Mandela and his ANC colleagues continued their efforts to dismantle apartheid until it finally ended in 1994.

More than four years after his release, 20,000,000 South Africans of all colors lined the streets to vote in South Africa's first election that was held under a law of universal suffrage. The people of South Africa elected Nelson Mandela as the first President of the fully representative democratic state, a man whose resilience, humility and eloquence symbolized a new era in which South Africa strove to achieve equality, communication and cooperation within its government and communities. The newly elected President Mandela addressed the world and pledged to lead a "united, democratic, non-racial and non-sexist government" for all people of South Africa.

Madam Speaker, 20 years after his release, Nelson Mandela's wisdom, strength and work continues to inspire people of all walks of life. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution

that commemorates the 20th anniversary of an important moment in world history and recognizes an extraordinary man's dedication to equality, peace and reconciliation.

RECOGNIZING HOUSE RESOLUTIONS
IN SUPPORT OF HAITI

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I stand before you to express my support for the three House Resolutions on today's legislative calendar honoring the Americans who responded courageously and humanely after the devastating earthquake in Haiti on January 12th.

We all remember the startling and sobering televised images of the aftermath of the earthquake. The men and women being honored today, in the military and amongst our first responders, ran to the epicenter of this tragedy to help save lives. I am proud to join my colleagues in recognizing these individuals with House Resolutions H. Res. 1066, H. Res. 1059, and H. Res. 1048. I would especially like to recognize New York Task Force One, the FEMA-sponsored urban search and rescue team, made up of 80 members of the New York Police Department and the Fire Department of New York, who were successful in freeing six individuals from the rubble.

The immediate response from our citizens to the tragedy in Haiti has been heartwarming, demonstrating the decency and compassion we all have for our fellow mankind during difficult times. Even those who have not been formally recognized in the resolutions noted above are partners in this shared effort to overcome such a disaster. Within 24 hours following the quake, we saw Americans from a cross section of society—from elected officials in Washington to everyday residents all over New York City—reach out and offer assistance. Even today, the statistics are hard to believe, almost 50 percent of Americans have donated to the Haitian relief efforts and there are still thousands waiting in line for their turn to assist on the grounds.

As a nation, it has warmed my heart to see us dedicate our efforts, and commit ourselves to supporting, the long-suffering Haitian people, now and into the future.

Madam Speaker, I join my colleagues in recognizing those who offered their time and effort to assist those in Haiti and challenge them to stay the course until Haiti is made whole again.

HONORING THE CITY OF
ZEPHYRHILLS, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, 100 years ago Zephyrhills, FL was founded as a colony paradise by Howard B. Jeffries for his fellow Union civil war veterans. Originally named Abbot after the owner of the town's first drug store, Zephyrhills is now home to 11,000 proud residents.

Tradition holds that the town of Abbot's name was changed to Zephyrhills because of the cool, gentle, zephyr breezes from neighboring Greer and LeHeup Hill. The name officially changed to "Zephyrhills" on March 10, 1911; with it, the town of Abbott officially moved from an A to Z in the alphabet.

Zephyrhills residents are proud of the many accomplished men and women who have brought notoriety to their hometown. Zephyrhills High School coach John Clements has the distinguished record of being one of only five coaches in the United States with over 400 recorded wins; "The Bulldogs" baseball team now plays on the John F. Clements field in his honor. Having played professional baseball prior to coaching for ZHS, John, along with Yankees pitching coach Dave Eiland, Green Bay Packers defensive tackle Ryan Pickett, and NASCAR driver David Reutmann, is among the list of athletes that call Zephyrhills their hometown.

Zephyrhills is also proud of its local beauties. Begun in 1956, the Lions' Club's "Miss Zephyrhills" pageant is a favorite feature during the annual Founders Days. It has become a launching ground for the statewide "Miss Florida" competition. Many former "Miss Zs" love their hometown as much as any other resident, 1978's winner, Diana Kennedy, summed up her experience saying, "I was very proud to represent Zephyrhills and I know the experience made me feel like Miss America. I remember being involved in the community; throwing out the first baseball and attending parades. Of all the titles I held, representing my hometown was the most rewarding."

One hundred years ago Howard B. Jeffries founded a town. Zephyrhills has become a community based around family, neighborhoods, small businesses and longstanding traditions. I congratulate Zephyrhills on this momentous occasion and wish them continued prosperity and lasting memories throughout the next one hundred years.

A TRIBUTE TO WAYNE C. DELL

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, "Semper Fi," always faithful.

Like the strong foundation upon which this great Capitol has been erected, so to is America's foundation created by outstanding American citizens who quietly and humbly go about their daily life, devoting themselves to their God, Nation, family, friends and life's calling.

One such individual was Wayne Clair Dell. Born in Duncansville, Pennsylvania, to Helen and Charles Dell on June 29, 1946, Wayne worked with his father during middle school and high school in the construction industry.

Like most Americans, he comes from a very simple family background and had two loving and devoted sisters and one brother.

He attended Penn State University and served this great Nation during one of its most trying hours as a Nation, as a United States Marine from 1966–69, having been discharged honorably to return home, fall in love, and marry Ouida Cleland Dell in Ridgeland, South Carolina, in June of 1969.

Upon leaving the Marines, Wayne went to work in the construction and architectural industry on Hilton Head Island, long before anyone had ever heard of Hilton Head Island, and began as a draftsman with a firm in Savannah, Georgia, eventually taking that great American plunge into self-investment and small business by opening his own architectural firm out of the Dell homestead: Wayne C. Dell, Architect.

Working from home allowed Wayne to become very involved in his family's life, and he never missed an event in which his children participated. For many years, he served as a little league baseball announcer and was an avid and excellent tennis player, having won many community tournaments—to the great pride of his family, I might add, who loved cheering him on! Likewise, Wayne's hobbies were supporting his children and family in all their endeavors.

In addition to these pursuits, he enjoyed woodworking and carving and took great pride in the handmade high quality gifts he made for his family members, yet another enduring legacy. An active athlete his entire life, Wayne also played for many years in the church volleyball league, enjoyed playing all sports and staying in top condition; a quality that he learned as a Marine.

Incredibly, Wayne, as many of our forefathers, taught himself a profession, architecture, and passed the state licensure exam the last time that you could legally take the exam without having a college degree; an impressive feat, indeed.

Wayne eventually became known as a respected architect and specialized in high-end residential homes in communities in Hilton Head Island and Beaufort County, in addition to commercial architectural work. He prided himself on the art of architecture, which, to this day, stands as monument to his life's work.

Wayne had two natural born children, Eric (age 37) and Melissa (age 39). Possessing a strong desire to spread their love, they adopted their daughter's child Bethany, who is now 13 years old, when her mother was stricken with Huntington's disease, as did Wayne, and as did his mother.

Wayne and his loving wife of 40 years, Ouida, have cared for their daughter, Melissa, who has had to live with them for the past dozen years due to her health, quite literally serving as caregiver to her, and as proxy father to their daughter's daughter for the past 13 years. Wayne represents the perfect American father figure.

A strong man of Christian faith, Wayne attended and was married in St. Pauls United Methodist Church in Ridgeland, SC (1969). He was a certified Lay Minister within the United Methodist Church.

It is a sad calling, as I stand here today, to inform my friends and this Nation, that a dear friend, and father of a most trusted friend, Wayne C. Dell, passed away yesterday morning.

But as all architects know, with each great stone that is laid, another rests atop it to make the building stand stronger, and Wayne can be very proud of the son he raised, my Chief of Staff, Eric Dell of the Second Congressional District. In Eric, Wayne raised a son who many in both political parties have come to know, love and trust—no easy task on Capitol Hill, I know.