

Frankie Drayton Thomas, known to all as "Frankie," was born in West Palm Beach, Florida to Iola and Frank Drayton in May of 1928. She attended public schools and graduated from Industrial High School as an honor student in 1946. In 1950, Frankie graduated from Howard University in Washington, D.C. and went on to earn a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Florida Atlantic University.

A pioneer in her own right, Frankie became the first black college-trained social worker hired by the State of Florida's Department of Public Welfare. In the 1960s, she helped improve the lives of the less fortunate as a social worker in Washington State and, later, the Glades community. After years of hard work and dedicated service, Frankie rose to an administrative position in the Florida Department of Family and Youth Services. She retired from the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services as Director of Resource Development and Volunteer Services in 1995.

Frankie was a "Renaissance woman," also devoting herself to many political, social, and family endeavors. In June 1951, she and her good friend Gwendolyn Baker Rodgers co-founded Charmettes, Inc., an international organization 19-chapters-strong that unites women in the name of community strength. One of the many projects and services that she initiated as 1st Executive Director of the Charmettes is the annual contribution to the Howard University Cancer Research Center. From 1981 to present, the Charmettes have contributed nearly \$350,000 dollars to this effort.

Furthermore, Frankie was the founding president of the Northwest Democratic Club in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. She has served on the Board of Directors of the Urban League and the Board of Directors of Southeast Hospice. In fact, she was the first African-American female in the country to head a Hospice Board of Directors and also served on the Board of Directors of the Girl Scouts of America. Frankie was also a member of Delta Sigma Theta and served as a Parliamentarian of the Broward County Chapter.

Well-known for her political savvy, she organized and executed many political forums and helped to elect many candidates to office, including myself, as well as most of the Broward County Commissioners and school board members, Governor Bob Graham, Sheriff Ken Jenne, Attorney General Bob Butterworth, and President Bill Clinton.

Madam Speaker, Frankie was a social worker, public servant, community leader, activist, mentor, and philanthropist. Above all, however, she was a beautiful person whose compassion and spirit touched countless lives. A great voice for humankind has been lost. Frankie was my friend and she will be missed dearly.

CONGRATULATING ZACH STRIEF  
OF THE NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

**HON. JEAN SCHMIDT**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 3, 2010*

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Zach Strief of the Super Bowl Champion New Orleans Saints. Zach

grew up in Milford, Ohio and—despite being too big to play pee wee football and an unfulfilling first practice in high school—was recently named to the Milford High School Athletic Hall of Fame.

Zach went on to attend college at Northwestern University where he was a three-year starter. He was selected as a first-team All-American after his senior season. In 2006, Zach was selected in the seventh round of the National Football League Draft by the New Orleans Saints. Now, in his fourth season with the Saints, Zach is an important part of the Super Bowl champions.

Citizens of Ohio's Second Congressional District are certainly proud of Zach's athletic accomplishments. However, I am more impressed with his actions off the field. Recognizing a need to keep children active and wanting to give back to the community, he formed the Zach Strief Dream Big Foundation with the help of his parents, Doug and Cathy. Through this charity, Zach and his new wife have become important contributors to the rebuilding of the New Orleans community—and he has not forgotten his hometown. The Zach Strief Dream Big Foundation has focused on after school activities for children in New Orleans. And in Zach's hometown of Milford, the foundation has donated football equipment and uniforms as well as provided scholarships for children. Each summer, Zach returns to Milford High School and conducts a youth football camp that benefits his foundation.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Zach Strief for his many noteworthy accomplishments both on and off the football field. Zach is truly an inspiring leader and Ohio's Second Congressional District is proud that he is one of our own.

RECOGNIZING TONY BELL OF  
HARVEYVILLE, KANSAS

**HON. JERRY MORAN**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 3, 2010*

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tony Bell of Harveyville in the "Big First" Congressional District of Kansas. Tony has been selected as a "Great Comebacks Recipient" for the central region of the United States. He has been selected for this honor because of his perseverance and determination in the face of medical and physical challenges. Each year, the Great Comebacks program celebrates a group of individuals who are living with intestinal diseases or recovering from ostomy surgery.

Tony is one of over 700,000 Americans who have an ostomy, a surgical procedure that reconstructs bowel and bladder function through the use of a specially fitted medical prosthesis. Many Americans suffering from Crohn's or ulcerative colitis rely on a certain type of ostomy to function on a daily basis. Just like a prosthesis, ostomies help restore patients' ability to participate in the normal activity of daily life.

The Great Comeback Awards program raises awareness of quality-of-life issues for people with Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, colorectal cancer, and other diseases that can lead to ostomy surgery. While ostomy surgery is a procedure that can be life saving, it is also life-changing for these patients. The spirit and

courage with which a patient embraces life after ostomy surgery is what the Great Comebacks program celebrates.

Born with a defect of his colon, Tony Bell received an ostomy after birth. The ostomy was reversed a few years later, but Tony received a permanent colostomy at 9 years of age. Following this procedure, Tony was ready to saddle up and grab life by the horns and he embraced a bright future—one he hoped would include a career as a professional bull rider from Kansas. He wasted no time, mounting his first bull at the age of 10. As Tony trained for rodeo events, he also pursued his love of music. In fact, as a high school senior, he was chosen to join the elite Kansas Ambassadors choir on a European tour.

While attending college on a singing scholarship, Tony entered the pro rodeo circuit and competed professionally for two years, even riding in the Cheyenne Frontier Days Rodeo, known as "Daddy of 'em All." Having achieved this childhood dream, Tony has set his sights on a new goal, following in his parents footsteps to become a teacher.

Throughout his life, Tony says he drew tremendous strength from his parents, who taught him to be resilient and to bounce back from whatever life throws your way. He also credits his "second family," Youth Rally, a summer camp for adolescents with an ostomy, for helping him through some rough patches in his life. He now returns to Youth Rally each summer as a counselor and enjoys providing support and encouragement to campers.

Today, Tony is 28 and lives in Harveyville, Kansas with his wife Pam and six-year-old stepdaughter Haiden. He works on the family farm and is just a few credits shy of his special education teaching degree. Tony continues to channel his musical talents by performing in a barbershop quartet with his father. An outdoor enthusiast, he enjoys skydiving and noodling (fishing for catfish with your bare hands). Tony wants to share his story of success so that others with life-changing conditions know that they are not alone and can achieve their goals with hard work, determination, and perseverance. I commend Tony on his efforts and will to help others and I congratulate him on being selected as a Great Comebacks Recipient.

NATIVE HAWAIIAN GOVERNMENT  
REORGANIZATION ACT OF 2009

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 3, 2010*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2314, the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act of 2009. This act recognizes the past injustices suffered by native populations, and with this act the United States can begin to move forward with a more positive government-to-government relationship.

American Indians and Alaska Natives have the right to govern their own affairs and determine their membership. Native Hawaiians should also have the right to self-governance and self-determination.

H.R. 2314 establishes a process for federal recognition of one Native Hawaiian governing entity and authorizes negotiations between the