

to a wide range of local boards and commissions. That requires a lot of candidates. Another tradition, minority representation, guarantees no political party gets to elect every member of a town council, board of selectmen or board of education. Our law seeks to encourage a variety of voices in local government.

Political parties in many towns struggle to find enough candidates to fill their slates. The hyperpartisanship that mars our national politics recedes in many communities seeking citizen volunteers to manage local affairs. Plenty of parties will welcome unaffiliated voters onto their tickets for municipal elections.

If you get your news from cable television, you may properly think that much of contemporary politics is an endless series of screaming matches. Town politics does not often descend into the bear pit. Go to a meeting of your local planning and zoning commission and you will not be able to tell the Democrats from the Republicans. It's a collection of citizens trying to manage or attract development to their community. If you can spot the nuances of a traffic study or possess some ideas on how a town can manage a decline in the number of school-age children it will educate in the next decade, welcome.

As a candidate for local office, you'll be more a part of a team than a member of a fire-breathing partisan tribe. The desire to serve will be your platform. In most instances, a campaign for a town office comes with few complications. Almost everyone wins. In some towns with a nine-member board of education, for example, there are only ten candidates. Minority representation rules have been adopted to give no party more than five members. Only one of the ten candidates, assuming a full slate by each party and no third party candidates, will lose. And there are plenty of other places for that person to serve in community government.

I've saved the best reason for last. You will meet wonderful people whose friendship will endure after your service concludes. I was reminded of this gift on Monday when John Mitchell, South Windsor's beloved former mayor, died. Mitchell, 84, may have been our community's longest performer of good deeds.

Born in Manchester, he lived and worked in South Windsor for most of his adult life. He started a fuel oil business as a young man, and it thrived through the unfailing melding of enterprise, knowledge and a buoyant personality. He served on the town council for more than a decade and enjoyed two terms as mayor in the 1980s, a time of historic growth in town.

Mitchell's service to others was not limited to elective office. He remained active in the local chamber of commerce and was a stalwart in the Rotary Club for decades. He loved community events. Almost 40 years ago, he thought that since so many strawberries grew on the shrinking numbers of South Windsor farms, there ought to be a June festival, and local Republicans ought to create it. I can attest to the amount of work a strawberry festival requires. Mitchell's enthusiasm made it impossible to do anything but enjoy the challenge. The strawberry festival has long been what he envisioned: an annual June Saturday that thousands have enjoyed.

Mitchell was active in providing college scholarships to local students as recently as last month. We'll never know the vast number of people he lifted and encouraged with his private generosity. We helped with a few

local campaigns in the past decade, and I was reminded of his joy in the battle. His sense of humor grew sharper, and he displayed a rare wonderment at growing older.

So think about running for something. You will help your town. If you are very lucky, you will get to know someone like John Mitchell.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN H. RUTHERFORD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2019

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Madam Speaker, I was unavailable and missed Roll Call Vote 465. Had I been present, I would have voted Nay on Roll Call No. 465.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHNNY (SAL) GARDNER

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2019

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. Johnny (Sal) Gardner and his coaching career.

Staring in 1967, Coach Sal has devoted his life to his community coaching the city's youth in football, baseball and basketball.

During his years as the head football coach at Oxford, he achieved over 225 wins and had a 49-game winning streak from 1999 to 2005.

He also coached baseball for 47 years where he won or tied for the area championship four times, had numerous playoff appearances and coached over 550 athletes, including my children, during his tenure there. He won two state championships in youth baseball in 1985 and 1990.

Madam Speaker, please join me in thanking Coach Sal for his dedication to our local youth.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, due to an error, I voted "nay" on Roll Call 460 (Amash of Michigan Part B Amendment No. 50 to H.R. 2500). I intended to vote "yea".

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF THE HONORABLE ROSS PEROT AND HIS MONUMENTAL IMPACT ON OUR NATION

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2019

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of the Honorable Ross

Perot and his monumental impact on our nation.

Mr. Perot is well known for being a wildly-successful, self-made businessman who ran for President twice, the first time receiving a recorded-breaking 19% of the vote as an independent candidate. Today, I would like to recognize him for his unparalleled service and sacrifice on behalf of our country's military.

Mr. Perot is a graduate of the United States Naval Academy. Following his service, Mr. Perot joined International Business Machines (IBM), which led him to create the extremely successful company, Electronic Data Systems. Mr. Perot was responsible for many other breakthroughs and innovations in the industry. Mr. Perot made a point to hire former military personnel and based his management style on his military training. Mr. Perot continued to be an active advocate for our servicemembers and veterans, becoming one of the most outspoken advocates for our Prisoners of War (POWs). In fact, Mr. Perot was asked by then-Secretary of State Henry Kissinger to lead the fight on behalf of our POWs, a project he spearheaded by personally chartering two jets filled with medical supplies and the wives of POWs still in Vietnam. His efforts directly led to many POWs being released in 1973 and returned to the United States.

Over the course of his life, Mr. Perot received countless honors for his work. In 2009, he was recognized by the Department of Veterans Affairs for his tireless efforts on behalf of our nation's veterans, and received honorary status in the Army and Marine Corps. Mr. Perot was also named an honorary Green Beret and is one of only fourteen honorary members of the Army's famous 75th Ranger Regiment.

Of personal note, I'm especially grateful for all Mr. Perot did for our soldiers and families at Fort Bragg, the largest military installation in the world, located in North Carolina's 8th Congressional District. Mr. Perot donated millions of dollars to the Airborne & Special Operations Museum, and has donated his time, resources and devotion to assisting projects at the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School at Fort Bragg.

While we mourn his passing, Mr. Perot will be remembered for his impeccable character, determination and generosity. I have a deep admiration and profound appreciation for all he accomplished and I am inspired by his example to ensure we take care of those who so bravely served our nation.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in recognizing the life of the Honorable Ross Perot.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2019

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, on July 12, 2019, I was unavoidably detained and was not able to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 472; "nay" on rollcall No. 473; and "yea" on rollcall No. 474.