

"I'm a newcomer. I've been attending probably twenty years, no more than twenty-five. I was always more involved in the national scene until my brother Peter told me what happens locally is more important. I give Ross a lot of credit."

Brunham P. Miller says he has been attending Town Meeting "since moving back to the area in 1957"—and so has racked up nearly forty appearances of his own. But Miller has missed several of those, one because he was ill and at least one other because he was away. He has known Rajotte a long time and admires his commitment.

"I served with Ross on the first Charter Commission," Miller said. "He was active then and still is. He's so dedicated and concerned about town government. What he believes in he believes in strongly, and he works hard to bring it about."

Robert McConnell, who serves as assistant town moderator and who's been a teller at Town Meeting for a number of years, said he began attending "sometime in the 60's" and says he considers it amazing "how loyal Ross has been all that time. When I was first on the Finance Committee," McConnell said, "I honestly didn't realize the man's good intentions. I thought he was a pest. I came to realize he has the best interests of the town at heart and whether you agree with him or not on an issue, he always treats you the same."

New Northbridge Town Manager William Williams, who attended his first Northbridge Town Meeting, said he has never met anyone quite like Rajotte.

"I have encountered people like him, but this is the first time I've met someone who brings such objectivity to their attendance, and not just a negativity. I've seen people who are veterans of Town Meetings, but usually they're 'Rogue's Gallery'-type characters."

"Two of my articles passed!" Rajotte beamed last Thursday, seemingly as pleased by this hoopla over his fiftieth. Article 26, which asked voters for the appropriation of \$600.00 to print a large-book real estate and personal property valuation list, was approved. So too was the last article on the warrant, Article 30, which called for selectmen to ask members of Congress and the State Legislature to file bills not to allow public funds to be used to perform abortions. Article 28, seeking establishment of a five-member Consumer Advisory Board appointed by selectmen, was rejected.

One highlight of Spring Annual Town Meeting was approval by voters of a \$11.3 million School Dept. budget that represents a 13.5 spending increase over FY '97—and \$40,000 to fund consultant services towards determining a site for a new high school.

[From the Worcester (MA) Telegram and Gazette, May 6, 1997]

RAJOTTE HITS "TREMENDOUS" MILESTONE
(By Jim Bodor)

NORTHBRIDGE.—No one will ever call Rosaire J. "Ross" Rajotte a quitter.

During World War II, he was injured four times—earning four Purple Hearts—before he finally left the battlefield.

He caught a piece of shrapnel in his chest in Germany, a piece of mine in the head in France, and a bullet in the back of the neck in France.

But it wasn't until shrapnel ripped off part of his right foot in Germany that he was forced to end his tour of duty.

Back home in Northbridge, Rajotte's persistence has manifested itself on the town meeting floor.

Year after year, decade after decade, he has argued the pros and cons of every budget, zone change and land purchase to come before the town.

Tonight, Rajotte will attend his 50th consecutive annual town meeting, extending a local record that many believe will never be surpassed.

"There probably has never been a public official as devoted as Ross Rajotte," said Spaulding Aldrich, himself a town meeting veteran of about two decades. "Whether you agree or disagree with him, you have to respect him because he does it because he loves his town."

Rajotte's string of annual town meetings began in 1948, and was inspired by his service in the U.S. Army.

"When I was in the Army they used to talk to us about responsibility, and participating in your government," he said. "So I went when I got home and I liked it and I kept going."

Rajotte has been a member of the Board of Selectmen three times, serving as chairman once. He is credited with starting the town's first Conservation Commission and its first planning and zoning boards of appeals.

He has belonged to several veteran's committees, and has sponsored more than 100 articles at town meeting.

He also has filed countless bills with the state Legislature, on everything from prohibiting public funding of abortions, to mandating that dogs wear diapers in public.

"I never thought I would live this long to do all this," Rajotte said in his lilting French-Canadian accent, which is instantly recognizable to town meeting devotees. "I'll go as long as I can."

Numerous health problems have threatened Rajotte's streak in recent years. A pesky bout with pneumonia, for instance, put him in the hospital as recently as last week.

But his enthusiasm for town government is limitless. He once recruited two softball teams from a nearby ball field to reach a quorum at a town meeting. And he is the sponsor of three articles at this year's town meeting.

One calls for the town to reprint the list of property values in town; another calls for the creation of a consumer advisory commission to protect the elderly from scams; the third calls for the town to notify Congress that it opposes public funding of abortions.

Town Moderator Harold J. Gould, a veteran of 23 town meetings, said Rajotte's streak is particularly amazing at a time when interest in local government seems to be waning.

"Obviously it's a tribute to the individual and his interest in the town and town government," said Town Moderator Harold J. Gould. "To be able to hold a string together like that for 50 years is a tremendous thing."

ADDRESS BY AL HENRY

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 1997

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to submit into the RECORD an address delivered to students of Newnan High School in Newnan, Georgia by Al Henry, who is a teacher at the school. This address was delivered May 19, 1997, by Mr. Henry on the occasion of the Academic Teams Reception for Newnan High School.

Having served in the United States Navy for 22 years, upon graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1956, and having served in the education field for 16 years, Mr. Henry has come to understand the qualities that young

men and women need to develop in order to become the leaders of tomorrow and to impact the lives of others. Among other points, he encourages individuals to make personal decisions of integrity by doing what is right in a world that often teaches our youngsters early on to do what is expedient. He teaches our youngsters that all professions have high ethical standards, and it is the duty of each individual to learn to follow them faithfully. Finally, his address urges individuals not to speak ill of others or to undermine the community with rumors and unverified stories. Rather, he urges them to respect one another by living and working with selfless humility.

ADDRESS BY AL HENRY TO ACADEMIC TEAMS RECEPTION NEWNAN HIGH SCHOOL—MAY 19, 1997

GUIDELINES FOR LIFE

Every student here tonight is a future leader of his generation—a person who can make a difference in the lives of others. Tonight I want to give you 10 pointers to guide you throughout your life. What qualifies me to give you pointers? I'm certainly not as smart as many of you, but I have lived longer, and have experienced much in my life, made mistakes and learned from those mistakes. So, perhaps, I am a little wiser.

1. Be a person of integrity

Always do what is right rather than worrying about your rights. Integrity heeds the quiet voice within, rather than the clamor without.

2. Lead by example

Set higher requirements for yourself than for those who work for you. The most precious and intangible quality of leadership is trust—the confidence that the one who leads will act in the best interest of those who follow—the assurance that they will serve the group without sacrificing the rights of the individual. The leader must also trust those in his charge to do their job.

3. Uphold high standards

Be responsible, accept your responsibility and know that you are accountable to others as well as to yourself for doing your job to the best of your abilities in accordance with the high standards of your profession—all professions have high ethical standards. Learn what those ethical standards are and follow them faithfully.

4. Strive for excellence without arrogance

While striving to uphold high standards, and thus seeking excellence, remember that excellence with a dose of humility conveys our respect for those around us; others will always recognize true excellence in action. Study art and the humanities. The math and sciences alone are insufficient to a complete education. It is easy to be an arrogant scientist without the humanities. The humanities and the arts give us wisdom, not data. They inherently enlighten us without overloading us with information. The cognitive study of math and science must be combined with the effective study of arts and the humanities for the sake of humanity and humanness. Remember that the aim of education is the knowledge not of facts but of values.

5. Do your best

This is a minimum requirement in all endeavors. If it is worth doing, do it right and do it well.

6. Treat everyone with dignity and respect

The greatest asset of any organization is its people. Treat each other well, look after each other, take care of each other, and together you can achieve great things. Remember that respect begets respect and that

teamwork and living in community with others is the healthiest form of competition because it requires cooperation. Our prisoners of war in Vietnam learned to put unity over self; they cared about each other and took care of each other and not one of them died because of loneliness in isolation as had been the case in the Korean War.

7. *Tolerate honest mistakes from people who are doing their best*

Not one of us will achieve true perfection, if we live to be a hundred; we all make mistakes. It is important to accept honest mistakes from those who are applying their talents and energies to the best of their ability. Have compassion and help people to overcome honest mistakes.

8. *Seek the truth*

Rumors and unverified stories undermine the bonds of community. Always seek the truth from those who are in a position to know. Also, seek the truth by resolving to be a life-long learner. We can never know all there is to know; however, we can learn something new every day.

9. *Speak well of others*

Gossip undermines our trust in each other. Gossip or speaking ill of others also demonstrates a genuine lack of respect for others in our community.

10. *Keep a sense of humor*

And be able to laugh at yourself. Being able to laugh at yourself increases the likelihood that, when you do achieve excellence, it will be without arrogance. The late Senator Sam Ervin said, "Humor endows us with the capacity to clarify the obscure, to simplify the complex, to deflate the pompous, to chastise the arrogant, to point to a moral, and to adorn a tale—it also makes our heavy burdens light."

These guidelines for life are not mine alone. They belong to all the midshipmen at the U.S. Naval Academy. But, they are free for your adoption. Be a person of integrity; trust others of high standards; strive for excellence without arrogance; have compassion; treat everyone with dignity and respect; seek the truth; speak well of others; do your best; and always keep a sense of humor.

Your parents, peers, teachers, and your friends expect these high standards of you. I know that you will give them no less.

THE BLAINE H. EATON POST
OFFICE IN TAYLORSVILLE, MS

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 1997

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce legislation designating the U.S. Post Office facility located in Taylorsville, MS, as the "Blaine H. Eaton Post Office Building."

A native of Smith County, MS, Mr. Eaton attended Jones Junior College from 1932 to 1934 and was named "Alumni of the Year in 1984." He also attended the University of Mississippi and George Washington Law School.

He began his professional career as a farmer and cotton buyer from Anderson-Clayton Co. and in 1942, he became the first executive secretary to former U.S. Senator James O. Eastland, Democrat, of Mississippi. Mr. Eaton served our Nation in the U.S. Navy from 1944 to 1946. Upon returning home from the war, he was elected to serve in the Mississippi House of Representatives, and he effectively

served the people of Smith County for 12 years. His leadership as chairman of the highway and highway finance committee resulted in the successful passage of the farm-to-market legislation that is still benefiting Mississippi today as the State aid road program. After leaving public office in 1958, Mr. Eaton became the manager of the Southern Pine Electric Power Association. His outstanding service and accomplishments were recognized by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association with the Clyde T. Ellis Award for distinguished service and outstanding leadership.

Although retiring from his professional career in 1982, Mr. Eaton remained active in community service and enriched the lives of many by volunteering his time and leadership abilities to such organizations as the Lion Club International, the Hiram Masonic Lodge, the Southeast Mississippi Livestock Association, and the Economic Development Foundation. He was also a loyal member of the First Baptist Church of Taylorsville where he taught Sunday school classes for 25 years.

With the death of Blaine Eaton in 1995, our State lost one of its finest citizens. Designating the Taylorsville Post Office as the "Blaine H. Eaton Post Office Building" will commemorate the public service of this extraordinary Mississippian who dedicated his life to the betterment of the community and State he loved so much.

H.R. —

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF BLAINE H. EATON POST OFFICE BUILDING.

The United States Post Office building located at 750 Highway 28 East in Taylorsville, Mississippi, shall be known and designated as the "Blaine H. Eaton Post Office Building".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the United States Post Office building referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Blaine H. Eaton Post Office Building".

CATEGORIC DENIALS

HON. NEWT GINGRICH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 11, 1997

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the following article, "Categoric Denials," which appeared in the June 14, 1997 edition of Atlanta's Topside Loaf. This article describes the efforts of Project RACE, a national organization which advocates adding a multiracial category to legal forms at the State and Federal levels, including the 2000 U.S. census. Project RACE [Reclassify All Children Equally] has a web page which can be accessed at www.projectrace.mindspring.com.

Project RACE was founded by a constituent of mine from Roswell, GA, named Susan Graham. Susan is white and her husband is African-American. Their son Ryan has grown weary and frustrated from having to constantly choose between labeling himself as either "white" or "black" on legal and educational forms. "I feel very sad, because I can't

choose. I am Both," Ryan recently testified before Congress.

Representative THOMAS PETRI has introduced a bill, H.R. 830, which would establish the legal right for individuals such as Ryan to accurately describe himself as "multiracial" on such forms. Ryan was officially labeled "black" on school forms and "white" on the 1990 U.S. census.

It is time to stop forcing Americans like Ryan to choose between different heritages. In addition to increasing accuracy, recognizing the multiethnic race would also likely lead to health benefits for these individuals, who are routinely excluded as samples in pharmaceutical tests.

I was very disappointed by the recent recommendation by a Federal task force to not add such a designation to the 2000 census form. In a technicolor world, the Clinton administration can only see in black and white. Like Tiger Woods, millions of Americans of mixed ancestry have moved beyond the Census Bureau's divisive and inaccurate racial labels. In the absence of Presidential leadership, it may be necessary to advance Congressman PETRI's legislation to overturn this misguided decision and take a major step toward a country in which the only box to check reads, "American."

[From the Topside Loaf, June 14, 1997]

CATEGORIC DENIALS

(By Anthony Heffernan)

At the tender age of 12, Ryan Graham of Roswell knows exactly who he is and who he is not. He isn't black, he will tell tell you, nor is he white. He's both, he says. His dad is black and his mom is white. The problem is that Ryan, like many of the other 2 million or more multiracial children in America, is often pigeonholed as one race or the other—and sometimes forced to choose between the two.

It's a very old battle that has received new attention since 21-year-old Tiger Woods ascended into the hallowed halls of sports superstardom after winning the Masters Tournament in April. Woods was widely heralded as the first African-American to win the tournament. But the young golfer has refused to be labeled as black. Woods points out that he is in fact one-eighth American Indian, one-eighth Caucasian, one-quarter African-American, one-quarter Thai and one-quarter Chinese.

As a child struggling to define his race, Woods coined the term "Cabinasian;" Ryan simply prefers to be called "multiracial." Now, for the second time in his young life Ryan is asking the federal government to grant him that right.

Ryan and his mother, Susan Graham, President of the Roswell-based Project RACE (Reclassify All Children Equally), testified last month before a U.S. Senate subcommittee in Washington, D.C. The Grahams and others argue for a new multiracial category on all federal forms, including the 2000 U.S. Census. The 1990 Census afforded only five race classifications: American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian or Pacific Islander, black, white, or "other." (Hispanics were tallied under a separate "ethnic" category.)

Ryan told Congress that, when forms require him to choose between black or white, "I feel very sad, because I can't choose. I am both . . . Some forms include the term 'other,' but that makes me feel like a freak or a space alien. I want a classification that describes exactly what I am."

Ryan and his mother first traveled to Washington to make the request four years ago, only to see the issue buried in bureaucratic hearings. But the Office of Management and Budget is finally expected to issue