

Over the past decade of my service in the U.S. House, I have been blessed with a strong and effective group of staff members who have helped me meet the needs of the 38th District of California. My staff also has helped me engage in vigorous oversight of government programs as a subcommittee chairman of the House Committee on Government Reform.

Today I want to recognize and honor one particular member of my staff who has served with me for nearly eight years as staff director and chief counsel for the House Subcommittee on Government Management, Information and Technology, which is now called the Subcommittee on Government Efficiency, Financial Management and Intergovernmental Relations.

J. Russell George joined my staff in 1995, shortly after Republicans won control of the House and I was appointed a subcommittee chairman. Since that time, Russell has been my key adviser and chief aide in directing the subcommittee through hundreds of hearings that investigated every department of the federal government. He helped me prod executive agencies into a serious and sustained effort to prevent any major breakdown of government computer systems due to software problems related to the Year 2000 change-over. He was a key force in pressing for legislation to collect debts owed to the taxpayers and he has directed many other subcommittee initiatives that have saved hundreds of millions of dollars while making government programs more effective in meeting the needs of our citizens.

All of these efforts built on Russell's prior experience as a New York prosecutor, as an aide to Senator Bob Dole of Kansas and as a White House aide under President George H.W. Bush from 1990 to 1993. They also serve as an excellent foundation for the new challenge that Russell takes on today after being sworn in as the new Inspector General for the Corporation for National and Community Service. Senator Dole administered the oath of office and both of us are proud of our roles in spotting Russell's ability and putting that talent to work for the taxpayers.

I know Senator Dole and I also were pleased that Russell's parents, Jonas and Celeste George, were able to attend today's ceremonies. Russell was born in the Borough of Brooklyn in New York City on October 8, 1963. His father is a retired New York City Transit Authority Supervisor and his mother, Celeste Russell George, is a retired secretary.

Russell grew up in the Laurelton section of Queens, New York, where he attended public elementary and junior high schools. Following an entrance examination, he gained admission to Brooklyn Technical High School, where he took pre-law prep courses to follow his dream of becoming an attorney. From a very early age, Russell demonstrated a commitment for public service, raising funds for charities, and at the age of ten, publishing a neighborhood newspaper aimed at his peers.

Following his high school graduation, Russell entered Howard University here in Washington and began his career in public service. A political science major, with a history minor, Russell was involved in college politics and was elected as the undergraduate representative to the Board of Trustees of Howard. He also served as an intern on Capitol Hill and that led to his hiring as a clerk on the per-

sonal staff of Senator Dole, who at the time was chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. Russell remained on the Senator's staff until his graduation from Howard, working nearly full-time, while winning placement on the Dean's List and graduating magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa in 1985.

Following Howard, Russell entered the Harvard Law School with the stated goal of "achieving legal training and returning to my community to serve it." Russell remained true to that commitment by becoming a prosecutor in the District Attorney's Office in Queens, New York, following his graduation in 1988. He tried cases and argued appeals before leaving to join the Administration of President George H.W. Bush, first as assistant general counsel in the Office of Management and Budget, and later as associate director for policy in the White House's Office of National Service. It was in that latter position, that Russell was first introduced to the National and Community Service Act of 1990, when he was instructed to implement the recently passed legislation.

After serving in the Bush Administration, Russell practiced law at a corporate law firm in New York, but in 1995 I was able to lure him back to Washington to head my subcommittee staff. Russell has been a tremendous resource and aid for me through many long hours and days of difficult work. I thank him for his dedication and hard work and I wish him all the very best in what I know will continue to be a very distinguished career in public service. He is a wonderful person and a sterling example of the men and women who serve our country so very well.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF VENUS AND SERENA WILLIAMS

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 2002

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H. Res. 94, the resolution to honor the contributions of sisters Venus and Serena Williams offered by Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

I first want to congratulate Serena and Venus Williams for their outstanding and historic achievement of being ranked #one and #two, respectively, by the Women's Tennis Association tour, the first for siblings.

Earlier this year the sisters faced each other in the finals at Wimbledon. The singles final was the first competition between siblings at Wimbledon since the very first edition in 1884, when Maud and Lillian Watson faced each other. Venus and Serena played a game that will not soon be forgotten.

The sisters have won many awards including more than 43 professional titles between them. Settling Grand Slam titles is nothing new to Venus and Serena. Venus Williams was the first African-American woman to win the Wimbledon Championships since 1958 and was the first United States woman since 1924 to win an Olympic gold medal in both singles and doubles. It is no surprise that Venus was named Sports Illustrated Sports-woman of the Year in 2000 and winner of the 2001 ESPY Award for Outstanding Women's Tennis Performer.

Serena Williams was the first woman to reach the finals in a U.S. Open debut since 1978 and is the 2002 Wimbledon champion.

Together, Venus and Serena Williams were the first sisters in professional tennis history to each win a Grand Slam singles title, the first to be ranked in the top ten simultaneously since 1991, the first to win a Grand Slam doubles title together, and the first to compete against one another in a Women's Tennis Association Tour final. The sisters also were the first to win gold medals in doubles at the 2000 Sydney Olympic games.

The Williams sisters are also winners off the court. They have established the Venus and Serena Williams Tennis and Tutorial/tennis academy that offers mentoring and tennis lessons to high school students in the Los Angeles area.

Additionally, the sisters are co-founders of the Southeast Tennis and Learning Center in Washington, D.C. These ventures will give hope to many young people and help keep them off the streets, on the tennis courts, and following their dreams.

The sisters have also landed numerous endorsements including Reebok, Puma, and Avon Cosmetics, setting important precedents for women athletes—especially women of color. They are shining examples of what can be accomplished with hard work and perseverance.

As we honor these remarkable athletes, we must not forget to salute their family, especially their parents, Richard and Oracene Williams. They established a solid foundation of excellence in their children. They are indeed the backbones for their daughters' successful careers.

Venus and Serena's accomplishments are victories for women of all ages who aspire to be or are already athletes. On and off the courts, Venus and Serena Williams are indeed "giving back".

I believe that in a few days we will see another Williams sister-sister match up at the U.S. Open. Venus and Serena Williams are both advancing toward the finals in the U.S. Open.

Mr. Speaker, the wonderful thing about this resolution is that it acknowledges the Williams sisters for their contributions to the sport of tennis, their community, and all the things they have done and will continue to do. Without question, Venus and Serena are two great athletes who have changed the game of tennis. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF CLARK R. LAW

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 5, 2002

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Clark R. Law, who for the past 14 years, has served as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Association of Ohio Philanthropic Homes for the Aging, a nonprofit organization that represents more than 350 nonprofit long-term care facilities located in more than 150 Ohio towns and cities.

Clark has been an aggressive leader in working in Columbus and in Washington on