

Today's Program

March 28, 2006

Tom Craddick
Speaker of the House

Student Guest

Brittany Ramos

http://www.ridistrict5730.org/midland_west.htm

Speaker of the House

Tom Craddick's rise to the Speaker's seat parallels the growth of the Republican Party in Texas. On January 11, 2003 he made state history when, subsequent to his 34-year tenure in the Texas House of Representatives, he became the first Republican Speaker-after helping gain the Republican Majority in the House-for the first time in more than 130 years.

Craddick's leadership gave the 78th Legislature, which began as one of the most challenging in history, much of its impetus for success. Although his first session as speaker was marked by an unprecedented \$10 billion budget deficit, Craddick helped the state overcome the budget shortfall while producing model ethics, insurance, tort and transportation reforms. Given his successes in these arenas, Craddick was overwhelmingly re-elected Speaker in 2005.

Craddick's political journey has been one of determination, perseverance and bravery. When he was a Ph.D. candidate at Texas Tech University, he decided to seek office in the Texas House of Representatives as a Midland Republican. Given the environment at that time, even his father warned him against it. "Texas is run by Democrats," the Midland businessman, R.F. Craddick told him. "You can't win." But the younger Craddick proved him wrong, and at the age of 25, he became one of only nine Republicans in the 150-seat House.

Tom Craddick has spent his adult life serving his fellow citizens in the Texas House of Representatives. His tenure has been characterized by landmark events. His initial years at the Capitol were focused on revitalizing the Texas GOP, but in 1971 he gained respect from both sides when he joined a bipartisan group of reformists dubbed "The Dirty 30" that was pushing for changes in House Ethics. In 1975, Speaker Bill Clayton appointed Craddick as the first Republican committee chairman in 100 years, and he continued to hold chairmanships under Clayton's successors, Gib Lewis and Pete Laney. Since his election as Speaker, Craddick has demonstrated an appreciation for diversity and bipartisanship by appointing a record number of women and minorities -- including 12 Democrats -- as chairmen.

Throughout Craddick's time in the House, the Republican Party has been on the rise. In the early 1980's, Republicans began winning statewide and local elections with more regularity. Once the movement began, it mushroomed, and by the end of the 20th Century, Republicans held 29 of 29 statewide offices and controlled a majority of the Senate. In 2002, after a long awaited journey, the Republican Party was finally able to celebrate its long-awaited success when Republicans captured 88 of 150 House seats, ensuring Craddick's Speakership.

Speaker Craddick is also a successful businessman. He is a sales representative for Mustang Mud, an oilfield supply company, owns Craddick Properties, a Midland investment business, and is president of Craddick, Inc.

Craddick holds both a Bachelor of Business Administration and a Master of Business Administration from Texas Tech University. In 1995, his alma mater honored him with a prestigious Distinguished Alumni Award. He is also an Eagle Scout who has held numerous civic posts in his hometown of Midland.

Craddick married the former Nadine Nayfa, a native of Sweetwater, in 1969. They have two children, Christi and Thomas Russell, Jr. Their son, Tommy, married the former Laura Parker in 2004.

In The Future

<http://www.rotaryclubone.org/makeup>

Make up online

April 4th Tom Woodruff, President PB Home Builder's Assoc

April 11th Lori Adcock-Permian Endocrinology and Diabetes



Check out what some of our boys overseas did to their Helicopter. The story is: this very special Mi-24 helicopter is presently flying in Afghanistan, where it is no doubt causing quite a stir. God Bless the U.S.A.



March Birthday Wishes

Jim Morris Mar. 3rd

Macon McDonald Mar. 15th

Michael Dobe Mar. 19th

Greg Frost Mar. 27th

"Few things are harder to put up with than a good example."

- Mark Twain (1835-1910)

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Literacy provides adults with skills for overcoming dependency on others for reading and writing, for obtaining and keeping a job that pays an adequate wage, and for increasing social and economic interaction in the community.

Thank you for recognizing and supporting Midland Need To Read's mission of improving and enhancing productivity and independence in Midland County through literacy. Your donation to literacy is truly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Patti Groce, Executive Director

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