

# The Weekly Challenger

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## Representative Peterman visits Yvonne C. Reed Christian Academy

What do 4th grade students want to know when their State Representative pays them a visit? "When you get elected, do you have to go to a school?"

Some citizens may have wished their elected officials had done so, but for the 4th grade students at Yvonne C Reed Christian Academy in South St Petersburg, the thought of being a State Representative was clearly a possibility once State Representative Frank Peterman detailed his as roles and responsibilities of the position he has held since 2000.

Mr. Craig Jones' 4th grade class at Yvonne Reed is studying state government in preparation for their upcoming trip to Tallahassee on March 9th. There they will tour the Capitol and participate along with 2,000 other students, parents, and educators from across the state in a rally to show their support for the Corporate Tax Credit Scholarship Program - also known as Step Up for Students. There are currently 36 students at Yvonne Clayton's school on the Corporate Tax Credit scholarship program.

"In addition to studying State Government, we are also celebrating Black History Month. I thought it would be a wonderful experience for our to have an African American government leader from our community share his experience with them", stated Mrs. Yvonne Reed-Clayton, founder of the school. Rep. Peterman got

the class excited about government and public service when he discussed how an idea becomes a bill and how bills eventually become law. Rep Peterman is sponsoring a bill this year that will help protect migrant workers from exposure to chemicals.

"It is because of the great African American leaders from our past that will enable you and I to make history for future generations," Rep Peterman shared while discussing Black History Month. The role model that has had the biggest impact on his life is Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Congressman Powell, an ordained minister, writer and newspaper publisher, served in the US Congress as a representative from N.Y. from 1945 to 1967 and again from 1969 to 1971.

Rep. Frank Peterman graduated from Morehouse College (the same College Martin Luther King, Jr. attended) with a degree in English, and he currently is enrolled in the Dallas Theological Seminary.



Rep. Peterman addresses the 4<sup>th</sup> grade class

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"Morehouse College stretched my mind; they instill in each and every one of their students 'you are the best and you will be the best'. My educational experience has helped shaped me into the person I am today." That educational experience may one day lead him to the halls of the US Congress if he follows in Adam Clayton Powell, Jr.'s footsteps.

We are thrilled Rep Peterman spoke with our students not only about the legislative process but also to inspire our students to seek excellence. I am certain at least one of these students will want to pursue public service as their career path after today," stated Craig Jones.

Yvonne C. Reed Christian school is located at 2401 5TH Street, S., St Petersburg and was founded by Ms Clayton, a retired public school teacher and administrator; with the mission to set high standards of educational excellence for minority children. She currently has approximately 90 students attending K through 5 th grade and welcomes students on the Corporate Tax Credit Scholarship Program. The CTC scholarship is a private scholarship program that serves low income children. To learn more about scholarship program visit [www.stepupforstudents.com](http://www.stepupforstudents.com) and to reach the school call (727) 502-9538.