

RiseZine

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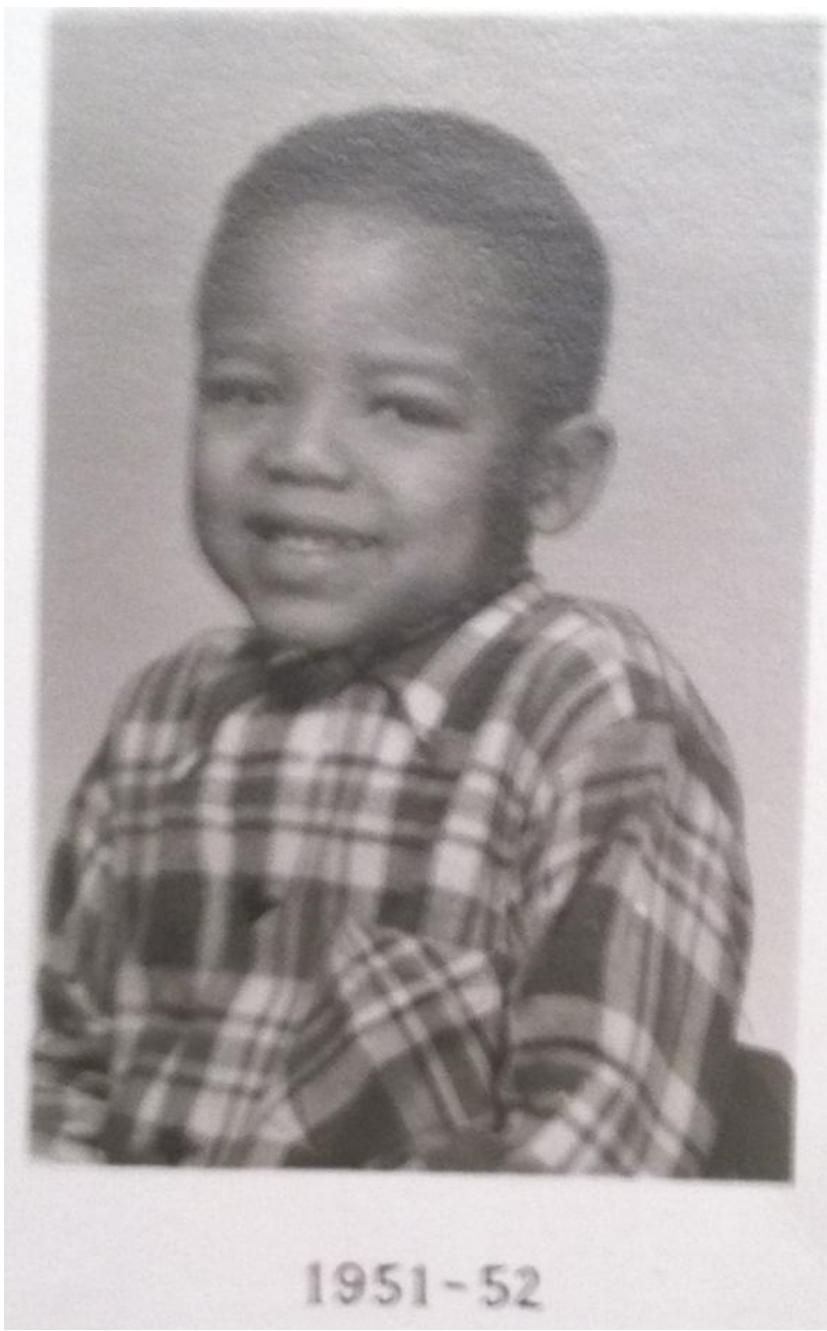
Welcome to **RiseZine** my electronic magazine (ezine) that can help you solve problems in your business and your life. It is my desire to bring you inspiration from my life experiences and those I gained during the twenty (20) years I spent as a Judge of the Denver County Court participating in the transformation of lives. I'm convinced that those experiences will heighten your knowledge, sensitivity and outlook on the issues you face in your business and your life. I am honored to share your precious time with you.

"THANK YOU MRS. THEDA GREEN"

"I'm so in love with you." President Obama reprised that Al Green favorite during his re-election campaign this year. Earlier, at the White House, the President presented the 2012 National Teacher of the Year Award to Rebecca Mieliwocki; a Burbank, California middle school teacher. Her acceptance speech reminded me of my First Grade teacher, Mrs. Theda Green and why I'm so in love with her. Mrs. Mieliwocki said about teachers, "Given the gift of working with children, you get a front row seat to the future and you build that future one child at a time. We take all comers, and all customers are served. We plant an attitude for success by achieving the altitude of their abilities."

When I think about Mrs. Green, It takes me back sixty years to Whittier Elementary School in Denver where my love for her began. She was more than just my teacher; she was the reason I loved going to school every day. The first word I ever wrote, in cursive, was for her. The first book I ever read, I read because of her. She helped me expand my vocabulary; when I told her I didn't have an encyclopedia at home, she said to read whatever book I had at home, so I read the dictionary from cover to cover. She instilled in me a fascination with

words that endures today. I was a better lawyer because of her. In first grade I spent the whole day with her; but I have carried her with me the whole of my life. Mrs. Green, "I'm so in love with you".



(Photo Left: That's me in First Grade)

I met my oldest friend in Mrs. Green's class. Jimmy Cain is 30 days older than me. We still call each other on our respective birthdays every year. I remember when he got a higher grade on the standardized math test; I got a higher grade on the standardized vocabulary test. We competed that way from elementary school, through junior high school, on to high school where we graduated the same night, from the same high school. I coached his oldest son in soccer; he helped my youngest son with math. It's probably poetic that Jimmy retired three

years ago as a high school math teacher; I retired from law.

Thank you, Mrs. Green.

My wife and I were dining in a popular neighborhood restaurant in Denver ten years ago when I last saw Mrs. Green. Though it had been fifty years since I left first grade, I recognized her. She still had those big dimples and sexy dark eyes. As I approached her to introduce myself, before I said my name she blurted out, "***Robert Patterson, I know who you are. I have followed your career and I am very proud of you.***" I told her how much I appreciated what she had done for me. Then I asked her the question that I had pondered for all my adult life; "What did she know or do that propelled me, Jimmy Cain, George Gray and several other of our first grade classmates to academic success and a love of school?" She said, that when she was student-teaching, her mentor told her that the key to successful teaching was phonics. As you may know, phonics is the ability to hear, identify and manipulate sounds in order to teach the correspondence between these sounds and the spelling patterns that represent them. That was the method she used for teaching our First Graders at Whittier Elementary reading and writing the English language. I was thinking about Mrs. Green when I sent my three year old grandson a birthday gift last month; I sent him a book on phonics! Mrs. Green will influence Charles James Patterson's life.

The foundation Mrs. Green laid in first grade prepared me for **George Morrison**, the teacher and coach who taught me sportsmanship and citizenship lessons in 3rd grade; for **T.R. Davis** who taught me geography in 4th grade where I learned about the Dominion of Canada; for **Mary Cruter**, my 5th grade music teacher whose husband coached the marathon runners of Kenya and when she returned she returned from those trips abroad, she brought drums and other artifacts to class to teach us about African culture; for **Madge Brown**, my 6th grade teacher who challenged me with spelling words so I could compete in the national spelling bee up to the State Finals and then selected me to speak at our continuation; but also, **Gib Gardner** the college counselor at my high school who, after I was suspended from school for fighting, told me "You're not college material"; and finally, **Ralph Beagle**, my high school drama teacher who, despite my 3-day suspension, prepared me to engage any audience with gestures and vocal variety, then selected me to deliver the closing high school graduation speech.

But it all started with Mrs. Theda Green. Everything I have learned can be traced to the sapling she planted some sixty years ago. Rebecca Mieliwocki says that whenever she meets someone on her travels, she asks them to name their favorite

teacher. Immediately, they blurt out a teacher's name. If there is any hesitation, it is because they can't decide between several teachers. But they always have a story about how the teacher transformed their life. This RiseZine is dedicated to all those teachers who changed your lives. I include my mother-in-law, **Mrs. Ninell Gurley**, in that circle of fame. She taught in the Detroit and Inkster, Michigan elementary schools for 40 years. On many occasions, her former students have told me about lessons she taught them many years ago. Please Rise subscribers, think of your favorite teacher and the meaningful role he or she played in your life. Please reply to me with the story of how that teacher affected your life. I will publish some of your stories in my next RiseZine.

Finally, for this Thanksgiving subscribers I want you to know that you have enriched my life. I have learned so much from your responses to my articles over these past eight years. I am very grateful for the time you share with me and the many positive comments you have sent me over the years. You see, you are the branches of the tree that Mrs. Green planted in me sixty years ago; branches that stretch out to connect with you through every article. I feel about you the way I feel about Mrs. Theda Green; "I'm so in love with you!"

THANK YOU MRS. THEDA GREEN

Postscript: As promised, I have lost 5 pounds since the last RiseZine. Some of you said you were going to join me. I look forward to hearing from you with your success stories.

Can't your organization use a healthy infusion of inspiration, motivation or training in Leadership, Decision-making, Communication, Ethics or Team-building? I can provide a keynote, workshop, seminar or individual coaching tailored to meet your needs and help you and your team **RISE**.

"Do just once what others say you can't do, and you will never pay attention to their limitations again." James R. Cook.

Judge Beau Patterson

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