

## 2007 National Honorees

Ten young Americans were selected in the 2007 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program for national recognition based on their outstanding achievements in community service. They were announced on May 7, 2007, at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Building in Washington, D.C. The National Selection Committee that choose the National Honorees was co-chaired by Sen. Norm Coleman of Minnesota, and Art Ryan, Chairman and CEO of Prudential Financial. Also serving on the committee were actor Richard Dreyfuss; Alma Powell, chair of America's Promise - The Alliance for Youth; Robert Goodwin, President and CEO of the Points of Light Foundation; Amy B. Cohen, Director of Learn and Serve America at the Corporation for National Service; Kathy Cloninger, National Executive Director of Girl Scouts of the USA; Donald T. Floyd Jr., President and CEO of National 4-H Council; Michael Cohen, President and CEO of Achieve, Inc.; Kathy Forbes, National Chair of Volunteers, American Red Cross; Joe Militello, President of NASSP; and 2006 National Honorees Ajay Mangal and Geneva Johnson.

The 2007 National Honorees are:

- [High School National Honorees](#)
- [Middle-Level National Honorees](#)

### High School National Honorees



**Taylor Bell**, 18, of Little Rock, Ark., a junior at Pulaski Academy, created Little Rock's first organized soccer league for special-needs children. Because his mother, a speech pathologist, works with special-needs kids, Taylor says he has long recognized that "children, regardless of their abilities, are much more alike than they are different. Unfortunately, I also have seen how some children have limited opportunities to be part of a team because of their special needs." Taylor is also passionate about soccer, so he decided to combine these two interests by introducing the sport to children with disabilities. Taylor contacted the Arkansas Soccer Association and the Little Rock Futbol Club for assistance, researched programs in other cities and states, met with school principals, and scheduled a trial summer camp in 2004. When the response confirmed the viability of an ongoing league, Taylor secured uniforms and playing fields, recruited coaches, created team rosters, and formulated schedules. He conducts two eight-week seasons a year, spending three hours every Saturday morning coaching his players, and up to 10 additional hours a week on administrative tasks. To date, more than 100 special-needs children and more than 100 teen coaches have participated in the program. Taylor has plans to start similar programs in other parts of Arkansas, and last summer trained 22 coaches in Texas. He also developed a coaching manual and is training younger volunteers to take over when he goes to college. "When

you find something you are passionate about, you have to do it – if you don't, then you will spend the rest of your life regretting it,” he said.

Taylor is the son of Steve and Paula Taylor Bell, formerly of Searcy. Taylor's grandmother, Nell Taylor, and his great aunt and uncle, Gene and Nelda Angel are life long residents of Searcy.

Taylor has been invited by the Searcy Soccer Association to help start a TOPS program in Searcy. Taylor and several of the Little Rock TOPS coaches will be in Searcy from June 11<sup>th</sup> through June 15<sup>th</sup> to train coaches and conduct a camp for children between the ages of 5 and 18 with special needs. For more information contact the Searcy Soccer Association or Taylor Bell at [t\\_bell10@hotmail.com](mailto:t_bell10@hotmail.com).