

**Honorary Membership
Nomination Narrative**

Nominee: **Senator Clarence William “Bill” Nelson**
United States Senate
716 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
DC Office: 202.224.5274
FL Office: 407.872.7161
Email: Jenny_Solomon@billnelson.senate.gov



Nominator: **Florida Chapter ASLA**

Senator Clarence William Nelson is nominated for Honorary Membership in ASLA by the Florida Chapter, not because of his title, but because of his character. He is respected by Florida Chapter Members, democrat and republican, for his advocacy efforts and actions to protect Florida’s natural resources and scenic beauty.

Bill Nelson is a true son of Florida, his family coming to the Panhandle in 1829; and, his grandparents homesteading in the early 20th Century on land that today is the Kennedy Space Center.

From a spot near there Bill would launch into space in 1986 and spend six days orbiting the Earth aboard the space shuttle Columbia.

Nearly three decades later, he still vividly recalls looking back at our planet from the window of the shuttle and not seeing any political, religious or racial divides.

"From that perspective, you can see how we’re all in this together," he says. "If we could just remember that, we’d sure get a lot more done."

It's that kind of perspective that has earned Bill a reputation as a thoughtful, moderate voice in an increasingly partisan political world.

Nelson's public service career began in 1972 with his election to the Florida Legislature. He then served six terms in the U.S. Congress representing Orlando and the Space Coast becoming an early champion of the environment.

In 1994, Nelson was elected to the Florida Cabinet as state Treasurer, Insurance Commissioner and Fire Marshal. During his six years in the post, he showed he was a common-sense problem solver and strong consumer advocate.

Nelson was first elected to the U.S. Senate in November 2000. He stood up to the insurance companies, Wall Street banks and Big Oil. He exposed the lies of BP about the Gulf spill. And he created a blueprint forward for our nation’s space agency. Now in his third term, he is continuing to fight for lower taxes, better education, Medicare and Social Security.

In 2010 the United Nations put the Florida Everglades back on the list of the world’s most endangered treasures thanks to a multi-year push led by Senator Nelson who pressed the group that keeps the list; the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

He is someone who believes public service is a noble calling which is why he's devoted his life to serving his community, his state and his country.

Here are examples of his dedication to and love of our environment:

Offshore Drilling: Senator Nelson has worked consistently to keep offshore drilling away from Florida's coast in order to protect the state's tourism-driven economy, its unique environment and the country's vital military testing and training areas in the Gulf of Mexico.

He blocked Senate drilling legislation until it provided adequate protections for Florida, including a 125-mile buffer off the Panhandle and a 235-mile no-drilling zone off most of the state's west coast. In addition, he was able to obtain written assurances from Senate leaders that they will not allow pro-drilling House members to weaken these important protections.

While the Senate bill adequately protects Florida's interests, Senator Nelson believes the real solution to high gas prices is to conserve energy and continue developing alternative fuels.

Arctic National Wildlife Reserve (ANWR): Senator Nelson opposes drilling in the Arctic Refuge. The United States has approximately 3 percent of the world's oil reserves, meaning there is no way to drill our way out of the current energy crisis. Instead, we must increase our energy efficiency and develop alternative fuels. Additionally, when the Senate voted to open drilling in ANWR, he felt that it was inappropriate to include an ANWR drilling provision in a defense spending bill.

Securing Funds for Florida Conservation Projects: Senator Nelson secured \$140 million in 2006 federal funds for Florida conservation projects. This sum includes \$137 million for the on-going Everglades Restoration and \$3 million to help the state purchase and preserve Babcock Ranch. Babcock Ranch, one of the last pristine wildlife corridors in the state of Florida, is approximately 91,000 acres of forest and swamp land in Charlotte and Lee counties and is home to many species of wildlife, including the endangered Florida panther. He continues to work for additional conservation money including pushing the Senate leadership to consider an important bill that would help fund projects to improve the water quality of the Indian, Stuart, and Calooshatchee rivers.

Arsenic in Wood and Drinking Water: Responding to concerns about health risks from arsenic-laced playground wood, Nelson introduced legislation to protect children by banning all arsenic-treated wood products offered for sale in the U.S. Dozens of parks around Florida closed because of reports on elevated levels of arsenic in the soil around wooden playground equipment.

Soon after Nelson's push to eliminate arsenic in treated wood, the EPA and the wood-preserving industry agreed to phase out the use of arsenic in residential wood. However, industrial uses for chromate copper arsenate (CCA) weren't included in the phaseout leaving many workers still at risk.

Superfund: Nelson helped start a five-year study of the health affects of pollutants in the Pensacola area. The city and surrounding area is home to several major Superfund sites. He also is helping Jacksonville with the clean up of neighborhoods polluted by waste from city incinerators. In south Lake County, Nelson is trying to help residents who live near the old Tower Chemical Co. plant, one of the nation's oldest Superfund sites, get water filters to protect them from the chemicals still leaking into the ground.

During ASLA Advocacy Day visits, the Senator and his staff have always welcomed us, actively listened and responded favorably to our requests. Collectively, they have a long record of supporting our profession. Bill, himself, truly understands and appreciates Landscape Architects and Landscape Architecture. We hope to have the privilege of welcoming him to our Society.

NATHANIEL P. REED

POST OFFICE BOX 1213
HOBE SOUND, FLORIDA 33475

PHONE (772) 546-2666
FAX (772) 546-5019

February 4, 2013

American Society of Landscape Architects
Executive Committee
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington DC 20001-3736

Dear ASLA Executive Committee:

It is a particular honor to propose Senator Bill Nelson for an honorary membership of The American Society of Landscape Architects.

Although I am a registered republican with a long background of serving Governor Claude Kirk, Jr. and Presidents Nixon and Ford, I have always supported Bill Nelson for every elective position he ever ran for.

Senator Nelson is one of the most caring Floridians who belongs within the league of Marjory Stoneman Douglas, Marjorie Carr, Alice Wainwright, Polly Redford, Joe Browder, Lloyd Miller, Congressman Dante Fascell, Governor Reuben Askew and Senator Bob Graham.

Senator Bill Nelson belongs in the pantheon of Florida's environmental heroes.

With a successful final election campaign behind him, he is guaranteed six years to work creatively on the nation's irresponsible budget excesses without sacrificing the theme of clean water, clean air, and good land management: stewardship!

The extraordinary experience of flying over Mother Earth while as an astronaut was such an overwhelming unforgettable sensation for each of those fortunate to have successfully made those dangerous flights. The sight of the small, glittering earth: fragile yet distinct makes an extraordinary impact on Bill Nelson, and made him all the more a caring man.

Senator Bill and his loving wife Grace have made their mark on the Congress by being highly responsible representatives of our great state. They are ambassadors who have forged many bipartisan efforts to protect the integrity of our national park and national wildlife refuge systems. Senator Nelson's unflinching support of Everglades restoration is a highlight for me, as it is 'easy' to be for restoration, but fail to follow through on the key votes to fund the restoration of the Kissimmee River, the building of the water improvement facilities south of the Everglades Agricultural Area and the new demands: raising Tamiami Trail to allow water to free flow down into the Everglades National Park and Eastern Florida Bay. These corrections of the stupid errors by man's ignorance and avarice nearly permanently ruined a uniquely perfect, world class ecosystem system.

If elected to the American Society of Landscape Architects, Senator Bill Nelson will join a group of caring Floridians who have and are making a difference in the future of our beleaguered state.

Sincerely,



Nathaniel P. Reed



SENATOR BOB GRAHAM

GOVERNOR OF FLORIDA
1979-1987

UNITED STATES SENATE
1987-2005

February 25, 2013

ASLA Executive Committee
636 Eye Street, NW,
Washington, DC 20001-3736

Dear ASLA Executive Committee:

Members of the Florida Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects are preparing to nominate their United States Senator, Bill Nelson, for honorary membership in the Society. Being Senator Nelson's friend and colleague for decades, and having personally enjoyed the privilege and recognition of honorary membership in ASLA, I strongly support this nomination.

Senator Nelson has been a model leader of local, State, National, and international environmental policies and practices that conserve historic, cultural, and natural resources. Now more than ever, with the world facing great environmental and economic challenges, Senator Nelson's example and continued leadership are especially meaningful.

I trust you will give Senator Nelson's nomination for honorary membership your full consideration. He is most deserving.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Graham". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bob Graham

6843 MAIN STREET
MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA 33014
BOB.GRAHAM@GRAHAMCOS.COM



**FLORIDA CHAPTER
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS**

722 Vassar Street
Orlando, Florida 32804
Tel: 407-443-0071

www.flasla.org

TOM BOHN
Executive Director

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February 10, 2013

ASLA Executive Committee
636 Eye Street, NW,
Washington, DC 20001-3736

Dear ASLA Executive Committee:

United States Senator Bill Nelson is being nominated for honorary membership in the American Society of Landscape Architects. I am pleased to support this nomination.

Although I have only met Bill on a few occasions during his 40 years of service to our country, I have been his constituent for 20 years and I can say with confidence that he is a man of character on whom you would be proud to bestow this honor. The Senator loves this country and the environment that makes it such a special home for us all.

When the Florida Everglades was removed from the United Nations' list of endangered sites, Bill approached Ken Salazar, Secretary of the Interior for help. He took Secretary Salazar on a tour of the Everglades, pointing out how the ecosystem was in serious danger and needed federal protection and funding. Endangered species were in decline and there had been drastic losses of sea grass in the Florida Bay. The area was riddled with high levels of mercury. The time he took, the passion he shared and the relationship he forged with the Secretary were instrumental in returning the Everglades to the protected list.

I trust that you will give Senator Nelson's nomination for honorary membership your full consideration. He is a true leader, a consensus builder and a hero to the State of Florida and will represent your Society well.

Sincerely,

Dana K. Worthington, ASLA, PLA
Florida Chapter Trustee