

## **David A. Yeoman**

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### **Personal Statement**

I am asking to be reelected to the office of USA Rugby Congressman because I strongly believe rugby has a place in American sports. Having experienced the decision-making at the national governing body, I feel there is much improvement to be made. I intend to ensure the USA Rugby vision is simple and communicated for all levels to participate in achieving. Once all the stakeholders are aligned behind a clear vision and strong leadership, I believe many of the issues will fall to the wayside.

No other sport has the camaraderie and spirit which gives more back to the players than other social sports. I have found a home in every city in this and other countries simply because I play rugby. I will promote high performance play as it is our ambassador for the sport, and I will ensure grassroots rugby stays strong and welcoming to youth and crossover athletes as well as the tens of thousands of social players. I have been active at all levels of rugby (youth, high school, collegiate, adult, select-side, coaching, refereeing, international events, national) and this has helped shape my opinion that clear, attainable goals shared across all levels and disciplines of the sport is what's needed to realize our dream of thriving rugby in America.

### **Rugby Experience**

2014-present USA Rugby Congressman

Participated in semi-annual congressional meetings with the USA Rugby Board of Directors and CEO. Attended all TRU AGMs to understand the issues facing clubs I represented and made myself available to all club representatives. I addressed my constituent's concerns at the national level and made input and decisions based on the opinions of TRU leadership and my own personal judgement. I approved the creation of Rugby International Management (RIM), a revamp of the by-laws and the addition of two board members.

2010-present

Bay Area Rugby Club/Bay Area High School Rugby Club (currently Coach, formerly President, Player, Referee), Houston Youth Rugby Association (Board-member), USA Sevens (International Team Liaison)

Responsible for the day-to-day operations of a high school athletic club situated in the suburbs of Houston, TX. Ensured the team had adequate practice and game facilities, equipment and abided by the rules and regulations of USA Rugby and the Rugby Texas/Texas Rugby Union. Strived for a more professional, financially viable club by securing land for a new field complex, practice jerseys and newcomer welcome packets. Reinstated the Houston 15's annual rugby tournament in 2011 and partnered with the Lone Survivor Foundation which assists wounded veterans. Created youth development opportunities in Houston by fundraising and offering expert opinion and financial support to youth teams and individual players through donations and a grant program. Hosted Houston leg of the IRANZ camp.

2005-2010

Various Duties

Bay Area Rugby Club (VP, Player, Coach), Houston Athletic Rugby Club (Player), Colorado Springs Grizzlies RFC (VP, Player), Colorado College (Assistant Coach), Ft. Leonard Wood Marauders RFC (VP, Player) Created and coached a U-19 team. Developed a Houston-based pre-season tournament to allow local clubs to have minimal travel and maximum playing and development time prior to the competitive season. Designated club event planner and coordinated the team's 35th anniversary event which included a youth rugby game, an alumni match and a dinner. Executed the day-to-day operations of the club.

2003-2004

Player, Rugby Union Marburg (Germany) Won the regional third division championship. Selected for All-Army and U.S. Armed Forces Europe select sides.

1997-1999

Player, Army RFC

**Outside of Rugby**

Mechanical Engineering BS, United States Military Academy, West Point, NY

Geological Engineering MS, Missouri Science and Technology (formerly University of Missouri-Rolla)

U.S. Army veteran

Current oil and gas professional and former aerospace professional with a focus on process improvement