

[Living in America: Still Inspired by Those Living the American Dream](#)

By [Cordell Parvin](#) on September 4th, 2012

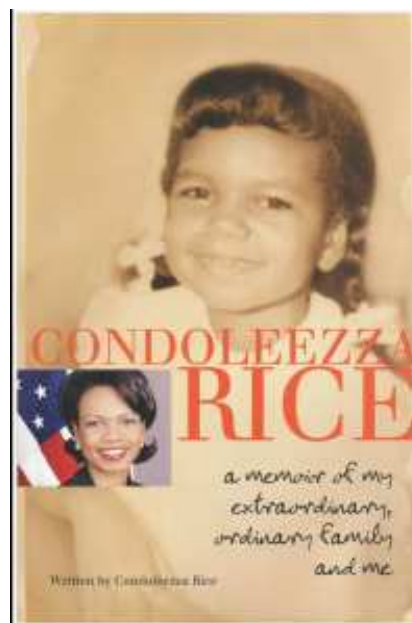
I always enjoyed [James Brown](#) singing [Living in America](#). The republicans played that song during their convention and now I can't get it out of my head.

As Americans in an election year, we may argue over many things, but we share a love of inspiring life stories. We love the real life heroes who started with little other than believing the American dream and through hard work and persistence in the face of adversity became a living example for the rest of us to emulate.

I have spent my entire life reading stories about Americans living the American dream. In my early days it was mostly baseball players. I remember reading biographies of [Lou Gehrig](#), [Babe Ruth](#), [Jackie Robinson](#), [Roy Campanella](#). Then it was American Presidents. Later I began reading lawyer biographies. I found these many stories inspiring.

Last week I flipped channels between the Republican Convention and the US Open. As always, I was not watching for the political theater. Instead, I watched to hear the personal stories. I enjoyed hearing Marco Rubio describe how his dad stood behind the bar in the back of many banquet rooms so that his son could stand behind the podium in the front of the room. My favorite personal stories were these:

- Condoleezza Rice
- Susana Martinez
- Mia Love



[Condoleezza Rice at 2012 Republican National Convention](#)



[Governor Susana Martinez](#)



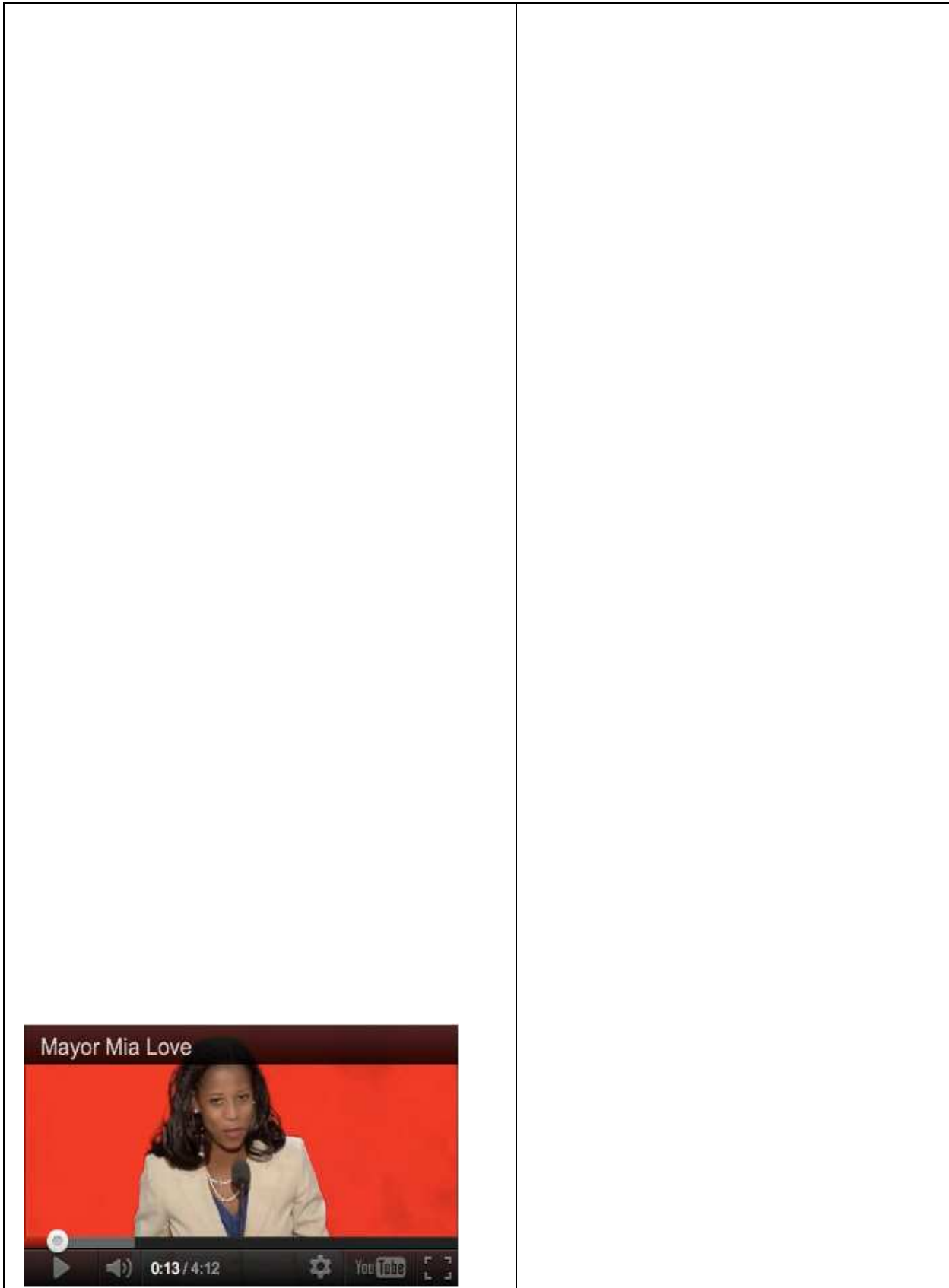
[Mayor Mia Love](#)



All three started life with not much more than loving parents who worked hard and somehow conveyed to them that they could achieve the American Dream. I am in awe of what they have accomplished. I have been listening to Condoleezza Rice's book: [No Higher Honor](#), about her time in Washington. But, I am more interested in learning how she got to Washington. So, I have switched to listening to her book above, which she describes as "a memoir of my extraordinary, ordinary family and me." If I did a review of the book, I might title my review: "From Birmingham to Washington, Stanford and Augusta."

Cordell Parvin Blog

DEVELOPING THE NEXT GENERATION OF LAW FIRM RAINMAKERS



Cordell Parvin Blog

DEVELOPING THE NEXT GENERATION OF LAW FIRM RAINMAKERS

Cordell M. Parvin built a national construction practice during his 35 years practicing law. At Jenkins & Gilchrist, Mr. Parvin was the Construction Law Practice Group Leader and was also responsible for the firm's attorney development practice. While there he taught client development and created a coaching program for junior partners. In 2005, Mr. Parvin left the firm and started Cordell Parvin LLC. He now works with lawyers and law firms on career development and planning and client development. He is the co-author of *Say Ciao to Chow Mein: Conquering Career Burnout* and other books for lawyers. To learn more visit his Web site, www.cordellparvin.com or contact him at cparvin@cordellparvin.com.