



**Bill Yoast** is the real-life hero of *Remember the Titans*, the inspirational hit movie, which chronicled the struggles of black and white football players and their coaches who were forced together when three high schools in Alexandria, VA, were combined into one school, T.C. Williams.

Those who have seen the movie will remember that Will Patton played Yoast's role and Denzel Washington played the role of Herman Boone, who with Yoast led the team to an undefeated season and the Virginia state championship. More importantly, both men brought the school and the community together at a volatile time when race relations were horribly frayed.

When the schools were combined it was taken for granted that Yoast would be given the head coaching job he was by far the most experienced and successful of the candidates. But for political reasons, the school board chose Boone, a relative newcomer to the Alexandria system. Yoast took the high road, accepting the job as Boone's assistant and modeling the values and discipline that helped bring players and coaches together to forge a unified team, a model of integration on and off the field. That model was so compelling that high school and college football coaches across the country brought their teams to see Yoast's story on film. The NFL's Miami Dolphins attended *Remember the Titans* the week before their season began.

The real life **Bill Yoast** is even more compelling than the film version. The former World War II Air Force Veteran, at one time, considered going into the ministry. Luckily for the hundreds of young men and women whose lives he helped mold, Yoast found his calling in coaching. His efforts were recently recognized by the National Consortium for Academics and Sport...

## Bill Yoast

### Speech Topics

- ☐ Teambuilding
- ☐ Social
- ☐ Overcoming Adversity
- ☐ Diversity
- ☐ Celebrity

