

Zachery Moriarty. Juniors include Curtis Nordmann, Benjamin Montalban, Camron Garey, Taran Holderman, and Kreig Voreis. Sophomore members on the team are Austin Davis, Griffyn Carpenter, Jordan Everett, Jordan Koontz, and Blake Lemler.

Also, I acknowledge the wonderful support the team had throughout their spectacular 2009 season. Head Coach Jason Groves and Assistant Coaches Landon Hawkins, Dave Carpenter and Matt Landis guided the Trojans to victory. I would also like to thank Principal Michael Chobanov, Athletic Director Mason McIntyre and above all, the fans in the community, many of whom traveled to Indianapolis for the game and gathered to welcome the team home after their victory.

I offer my congratulations to the members of the boys' basketball team of Triton High School, the coaching staff, the school administration, and the surrounding community for their accomplishments this season on the road to their 2nd place finish in the IHSSA 1-A State Tournament.

IN HONOR OF JUSTICE SANDRA
DAY O'CONNOR

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Honorable Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, who recently received the 2008 Paul H. Douglas Award for Ethics in Government from the Institute of Government and Public Affairs at the University of Illinois. She was selected as the recipient for her lifelong commitment to good government and her devotion to promoting respect for the highest standards of public service, a record that is a tremendous source of pride among her fellow Arizonans. This annual award recognizes elected or career government officials, or former government officials, whose ideas, writings, or public actions have made a lasting contribution to the practice and understanding of ethical behavior in government.

Sandra Day O'Connor was the first female Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, serving from 1981 after her appointment by President Ronald Reagan until her retirement in 2006. Prior to her appointment to the Supreme Court, she was appointed and re-elected twice to the Arizona Senate, ascending to majority leader in 1973. She was later elected to the Maricopa County Supreme Court and appointed to the Arizona Court of Appeals. Currently, Justice O'Connor is the Chancellor of the College of William and Mary and serves on the board of trustees of the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia. Since her retirement, she has frequently spoken on the need to insulate the Court from political pressures. To support an independent judiciary, she has tirelessly advocated for the selection of judges based on merit.

I commend the Douglas Award national selection committee for recognizing such a deserving candidate. Justice O'Connor continues to be an excellent example of what others should strive for in public service. She has lead with courage while maintaining a very high standard of integrity in her public and private life.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Sandra Day O'Connor for bringing the very best to government and for her unfaltering service to her community, state, and country.

COMMUNITY BANKS OF NORTHEASTERN MINNESOTA ARE NOT THE SAME AS WALL STREET FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about the small town community banks in Northeastern Minnesota. The vast majority of these institutions are in strong financial condition. They are not AIG, and they are not staring at large sums of "troubled assets".

The bankers living in my district don't need a bailout. They have money to lend to small businesses and families. They know their local communities because they live in them, their kids attend the local schools, and oftentimes, they personally know their customers from various interactions in the community. The financial strength of their communities directly affects them too, so they are actively working with customers who are experiencing problems repaying their loans—people who lost their job though no fault of their own and small business owners hit particularly hard by this historic economic downturn.

My constituents have seen rising foreclosure rates in their communities too, but it was not Northeastern Minnesota bankers who were responsible for many of these bad loans. Instead, it was often out-of-state mortgage companies who had overly risky lending standards and who did not understand the local economies of Northeastern Minnesota, let alone the housing market in general.

Irresponsible lending, over leveraging, and risky financial products by large financial institutions of Wall Street have had devastating economic consequences for families and small businesses located on Main Streets across Northeastern Minnesota. I look forward to working with Chairman FRANK and my colleagues on addressing the regulatory shortfalls that allowed the current financial crisis to occur and on addressing the regulation of so-called "too big to fail" financial institutions. These actions will be important to restoring the public trust in our financial system and our long-term prosperity.

I'm confident we won't have to work too hard on restoring public trust in the small town community banks of Northeastern Minnesota though, because the public trust in these institutions already exists. They have maintained public trust by doing what banks do—accepting deposits and making loans based on responsible leveraging and responsible lending standards.

CELEBRATING THE 90TH
BIRTHDAY OF DOROTHY O'LEARY

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Dorothy O'Leary upon the occasion of her 90th birthday.

Dorothy O'Leary has selflessly dedicated her life to serving her community. Following her career at J.L. Hudson, she has become very active in her neighborhood, frequently participating and working with local Red Cross Blood Drives. She also volunteers her time regularly as an usher at the Fox, Fischer and Masonic Temple in downtown Detroit. Dorothy's faithful commitment to the Redford community is exemplified by the success she has had running the Used Bookstore at the Redford Township Library. In this capacity, she raises approximately \$20,000 per year to support the library, and is vital to its survival.

In addition to her devoted volunteer efforts, Ms. O'Leary enjoys spending time with the West Side Silver Ladies, a social group of Retired Detroit Police Officer widows. She also loves bowling with her friends, and treasures the time she is able to spend with her three great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, as Ms. O'Leary continues her legacy of passionate philanthropy and eager altruism, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending sincere congratulations to Dorothy O'Leary on her 90th birthday for her enthusiastic leadership and loyalty to her community and country.

IN MEMORY OF BILL ROWELL

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, on May 6th, the community of Lexington County lost a long time leader and friend with the passing of Bill Rowell. As a fellow Republican growing up in South Carolina in the 1960s, I admired Bill and counted him as both a mentor and a friend. His dedication and contribution to the communities he served was an example to all those who will follow in his footsteps. He and his first wife, Bobbe, were founders of the modern Lexington Republican Party and his second wife, Dee, was an inspiration for his public service.

Tim Flach of The State newspaper has thoughtfully penned the following fitting tribute to Mr. Rowell.

[From The State, May 9, 2009]

FORMER TREASURER REMEMBERED FOR CARE,
PRINCIPLES

(By Tim Flach)

Friends remember Bill Rowell as a soft-spoken, progressive leader who helped make Republicans the political power in Lexington County.

Rowell, county treasurer from 1992-2007, died Wednesday at age 76 after a long illness. A funeral service for Rowell is set for 11 today at Saxe Gotha Presbyterian Church in Lexington.

"He was quiet but he was firm," county Coroner Harry Harman said. "He stuck by the way he felt."

Friends credit him with investment improvements and modernizing operations that benefited taxpayers.

"He laid a foundation that we are building on," current Treasurer Jim Eckstrom said. "I'm going forward on his shoulders."

Rowell was in real estate sales before becoming treasurer. He was a leader of the resurgence of local Republicans in the 1960s and was active in several civic groups.

County political leaders called him an adviser who preferred to work mostly out of the limelight.

"He was a lot like a father figure to me," Sheriff James R. Metts said. "He was a guy you could go to talk to, who had quite an insight on things. I'm going to miss him as a person I can contact and bounce things off of."

Rowell was commemorated for his courtesy, even to those who strongly disagreed with him.

"He reminded me a lot of the Southern gentleman," county public safety director Bruce Rucker said. "As a public official, he was always customer service first."

Others said he took time to talk with taxpayers frustrated with bills and rules.

"He often took the blunt of ire for things others had done," county Councilman Smokely Davis of Lexington said. "He had the patience to explain things again and again and turn people around."

Away from politics, Rowell appeared in musical revues during the early days of the Lexington County Arts Association 30 years ago. He also was a fan of local theater.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, on Thursday May 7, 2009, I was traveling on official business outside of the country and missed six votes.

Had I been present I would have voted "yes" on H. Res. 406 (Rollcall 237) providing for further consideration of H.R. 1728, the Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act; "yes" on the Frank Amendment No. 2 to H.R. 1728 (Rollcall 238); "no" on the Hensarling Amendment to H.R. 1728 (Rollcall 239); "no" on the Price Amendment to H.R. 1728 (Rollcall 240); "no" on the McHenry Amendment to H.R. 1728 (Rollcall 241); and "yes" on final passage of H.R. 1728, the Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act (Rollcall 242).

BICYCLE SAFETY AT VIRGINIA REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Inpatient RehabCare team at the Virginia Regional Medical Center for their safety education and outreach to Minnesota's youth. In addition to their outstanding work at the Medical Center, the RehabCare

team educates elementary school students throughout Virginia of the tremendous health risks associated with riding a bicycle without a helmet.

They recognize the importance of educating our youth during their formative years—at the age when they are most receptive—of the possible life-altering brain injuries that could result from not wearing a helmet while riding a bicycle.

In particular, Madam Speaker, I wish to laud the Inpatient RehabCare team in their most recent outreach to fourth grade students at Roosevelt Elementary School in Virginia.

Each fourth grade class participated in a safety awareness session where they learned about the lasting consequences of brain injuries and the importance of wearing bicycle helmets.

Students received real-life simulations of what their lives would be like with such brain injuries, demonstrating the difficulty of everyday tasks and making a lasting impression on the students on the importance of taking safety precautions when riding a bicycle.

Such hands-on scenarios—combined with the team's helmet safety information and their direct experience with assisting patients who have suffered brain trauma—provided these elementary students with invaluable life lessons in bicycle safety and the severity of brain injuries.

It is vital that we teach our children about the many benefits of active and healthy transportation and recreation through cycling; and safety education must go hand-in-hand with these lessons.

The RehabCare team's effective outreach to children is noteworthy and ought to be replicated throughout the nation. Their work—and the work of similar groups in the United States—is deserving of our recognition and continued support.

I thank the Virginia Medical Center's Inpatient RehabCare team for their inspiring leadership and dedicated work to instill in our children a lifetime of bicycle safety habits.

[From the Mesabi Daily News, May 6, 2009]

BIKE SAFETY BEGINS WITH A HELMET

(By Angie Riebe)

VIRGINIA—Writing your name while twirling your foot is not an easy feat. Nor is stacking playing cards in order if you're wearing glasses with lenses blocked by pieces of tape. And finding pencils, paper clips and rubber bands in a bowl of uncooked rice with gloved hands without looking is a downright laborious task.

But permanently living with the effects of a brain injury is much worse.

Fourth graders at Roosevelt Elementary in Virginia learned about the lasting consequences of brain injuries and the importance of wearing bicycle helmets during a presentation Wednesday at the school, led by members of the Inpatient RehabCare team at the Virginia Regional Medical Center. The students partook in several activities designed to simulate bike-related brain injuries.

"We don't want to scare them, but we kind of want to scare them"; just enough to motivate the use of helmets, said Robin Aronson, Inpatient RehabCare program director.

Karen Damberg, the rehab's community relations coordinator, approached the school about holding the seminar as part of the program's expanding community outreach initiative.

The school's four fourth grade classes were chosen to participate each in hour-long hel-

met safety awareness sessions because "that's the age where they start to think wearing a helmet is not cool," said Roosevelt Principal Willie Spelts.

Dr. Winston Schandorf, medical director at the rehab program, taught the kids about the brain and how injuries to different parts can cause such things as loss of vision, coordination and the sense of touch.

Students then got a real-life taste of what it would be like to live with such injuries.

A loss of touch would mean difficulty "buttoning your pants" and "you wouldn't be able to feel a zipper toggle," Damberg said to a group of fourth graders trying to find small objects in containers of rice while wearing gloves.

"You wouldn't be able to feel the temperature of water. Getting into the tub and shower would be difficult. You'd have to make sure the water wasn't too hot because you wouldn't know," she said, as the kids searched for a spoon, pencil, plastic baggie and other things.

Meanwhile, Aronson asked a group of youngsters to try writing their names on paper while rotating their right legs counterclockwise. "When you have a brain injury, things slow down. This is how it would feel," she said as the students struggled with the request.

At a table nearby, Schandorf had students attempt to put in order a deck of cards while wearing obstructed glasses. "See how difficult it would be," he said, noting that an injury to the back of the head could cause vision problems.

"There's nothing you can do to correct it," said the doctor. "The best thing you can do is prevent it. Wear your helmet all the time and tell someone if you fall and hit your head."

"It's important they learn at a young age to prevent brain injuries," Aronson said. The rehab program works with patients 18 and older who have suffered brain trauma.

"How many of you have been tempted to not put on a helmet because you're only going a block?" Schandorf asked, and a number of kids raised their hands. "That's bad news. You should keep your helmet with your bike always to wear even during short rides," he said.

"I learned when you fall you might lose your sight and hearing and not be able to feel things that good," fourth grader Kaitlin Knutson said after the activities. "Even if you don't have a helmet you should ask your mom and dad to buy you one, like for Christmas or something. And if you fall and hit your head you should tell somebody."

"It wouldn't be fun to have a brain injury," said 9-year-old Ben Kalinowski.

"Finding objects in the rice was the most difficult task," said classmate Mikayla Lutz. "I learned we should always wear a helmet. Some people don't think they're cool, but you should always still wear one," she said. "Some (helmets) can be really cool," she added later during a question and answer time.

"The kids have been asking great questions," Aronson said after the last session.

The fourth graders were given helmet safety information to share with their parents, and the students will create posters, based on what they learned Wednesday, for a contest. The rehab program will award helmets next week to the top two winning posters in each of the four classes during a follow-up presentation, and all of the kids will receive "goodie bags," Aronson said.

Spelts said he was thankful for the rehab team's effort. "Anything we can do to help the kids is great," he said.