

"We're celebrating a lifetime of him serving several generations of children, not just serving a community, which could be argued, but serving several generations of children," Tracy Arflin said. "I like to think of my father like that."

That's why around 100 family members, friends, current and former NHYFL coaches, players and officials gathered Sunday at Mill Creek Baptist Church in Radcliff to honor Tom Arflin for more than three decades of service.

In May, Tom Arflin was diagnosed with brain cancer and has undergone radiation treatments.

They made sure the Jaguars coach felt right at home—with Jaguars items and colors everywhere. Each table was covered in a teal tablecloth with a Jaguar youth helmet, with a white pom-pom attached to each facemask, smack dab in the middle.

Tom Arflin has spent 32 years helping develop the NHYFL. He's coached in the league since 1980 and served as its president since 1991. Arflin's grandson, Matt, remembers playing football for him years ago, and the 26-year-old remains amazed at how much the league has grown with his grandfather at the helm.

"It's kind of like the Madden video game where you create your own league. He kind of did that," Matt Arflin said.

Two weeks ago, Tracy stopped by to talk to Tom after a NHYFL meeting. That's when he told his father about the reception.

"I had tears in my eyes. That surprised me," Tom Arflin said. "He announced it after the meeting. I thought he was going to say something about the reason why he was there. It came out different."

The celebration ended up being special.

Radcliff Mayor J.J. Duvall grew up playing youth sports in Radcliff. He knows how much of a fixture Tom Arflin, who still is referred to as just "Coach," has become in the community. And he knows his dedication is unmatched.

"We're here to honor Coach's attention to detail, sense of humor, the smiles he brings to others, and the overall caring he has for kids and our youth," Duvall said. "He set the bar very high."

Trying to come up with a gift to honor him with was just as tough.

Tom Arflin already has two fields—the NHYFL and Radcliff Senior League Field—named in his honor. He has football memorabilia galore. So Duvall picked out another unique item—an engraved Louisville Slugger baseball bat. Tom Arflin actually began working with Radcliff youth in 1979 when he took over the Rangers' team in the Radcliff Major League.

"The Louisville Slugger is an icon, and you're an icon of the community," Duvall said.

Arflin influenced coaches as much as he did the players.

Just ask Vine Grove resident Travis McNair.

McNair has been with the NHYFL since 2008. He originally only intended to have his son, Tavius, sign up to play. But Tom Arflin convinced him to coach.

"He said we always need coaches. Now I am and I'm addicted to it," McNair said. "He said, 'We need coaches and people out to help.'"

McNair has coached his son on the Rams each of the past three years. This year, Tavius will enter high school at North Hardin. But McNair will still lead the Rams because he's having so much fun.

So is Isaac Bankhead.

The Radcliff resident will coach his third team—the newly formed Chiefs—in nine seasons. He coached the Vikings for the first two years and the Titans, too.

Bankhead's children, 12-year-old Isaiah and 10-year-old Jeremiah, have each played for the past seven years. And Tom Arflin helped him get into coaching.

"He's good-hearted, tries to make sure every kid in the league has an opportunity to play. He tells us how to deal with parents and what to do to help the league run better," Bankhead said. "He's been an inspiration. He's been a good guy. You can't help but to like him."

Former players agreed.

One of those players Tom Arflin influenced is Jeremy Brown.

The 17-year-old North Hardin senior wide receiver shared his unique experience on how Arflin helped him develop foot coordination.

"I didn't want to do football. My parents kind of forced me into it. I remember the first day of practice and they got out the tires for a tire drill. I stepped up, and I was like, 'I really didn't want to do it,' and I went through and hit every single tire. As I went and got done, Coach was like, 'Dadgumit, Jeremy! Dadgumit!' It went on like that for about a week," Brown said. "That was in the back of my mind. I did it perfect a week later. Since then, any type of drill I have that involves my feet, I don't mess up."

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, unfortunately, I was absent for vote No. 98, a motion to instruct the Sergeant at Arms to request the attendance of absent Senators. Had I been present for the vote, I would have cast a vote in favor of the motion.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JOHN C. JOHNSON

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, today we honor the life and heroic sacrifice of PFC John C. Johnson of Phoenix, AZ. He died on May 27, 2011, in Bayman Province, Afghanistan, of injuries sustained when his mounted patrol received small arms fire. He was 28 years old. Private Johnson and his wife Jennifer were expecting a baby daughter at the time of his death.

Private Johnson's parents remember him as a honest, affectionate son, and his wife remembers him as a dedicated husband and loving father. Growing up in Arizona's rugged landscape, he developed hunting and tracking skills that would later contribute to his resourcefulness as a soldier. Private Johnson enlisted in the Army in February 2010, commenting that he was committed to providing a better life for his family.

He served in support of Operation Enduring Freedom as a member of C Company, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division, based at Fort Drum, NY. His bravery and outstanding service quickly won the recognition of his commanders. Private Johnson earned, among other distinctions, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the NATO Medal.

Mark Twain once said, "The fear of death follows from the fear of life. A man who lives fully is prepared to die

at any time." Private Johnson's service was in keeping with this sentiment—by selflessly putting country first, he lived life to the fullest. He lived with a sense of the highest honorable purpose.

I stand with people in Colorado and nationwide in profound gratitude for Private Johnson's tremendous sacrifice. At substantial personal risk, he fought in Afghanistan with unwavering courage to protect America's citizens and the freedoms we hold dear. For his service and the lives he touched, Private Johnson will forever be remembered as one of our country's bravest.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Vicki, his mother, John, his father, Jennifer, his wife, and his entire family, who carry on Private Johnson's memory and will forever remind us of his sacrifice.

SERGEANT WILLIAM STEELE

Mr. KIRK. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a Freedom Fighter from Chicago, IL, an American Hero, SGT William Steele.

He is a man who proudly went off to war for his country. On June 25, 2009, William lost his leg and almost his life after an IED explosion in Maili, Afghanistan.

Sergeant Steele returned home an even stronger soldier, determined to continue to fulfill his dream with an Army career as a drill sergeant. And with the support of his mother, who at the age of 17 signed the papers so he could enlist in the Army, he will.

One of his favorite quotes from his mother that has inspired him is, "There is no sense of looking down, hold your head up!" Sergeant Steele has done just that, making us all proud of him.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that this poem penned in honor of him by Albert Caswell, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

COLD STEELE

IN HONOR OF A REAL AMERICAN HERO, SGT WILLIAM STEELE UNITED STATES ARMY, HHC 1-17TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

Cold Steele!

What is right, what is real!

What is strong, all in what a most courageous heart reveals!

While, all upon battlefields of honor bright . . . all in these killing fields . . .

Dark days and nights . . .

As from down within, as how a heart so reaches deep down to begin . . .

To begin this fight, whether on battlefields of honor bright . . . or in a hospital to unite . . .

Because, only with a most courageous heart of Steele . . . will we so win that night!

As all in time revealed . . .

When, courage crests . . . as one of America's Finest, The Army's Best . . .

For only there, in these the darkest days of all nights . . .

As only there, all in life and death . . . all in this fight!

Will hearts of strength and Steele, so crest . . . to reveal to bring their light!

Your medal, of what you are made . . . so very real!

All in his strength . . . all in William's Cold Steele!
 As a Chicago boy, who had it rough . . . trying to lift up himself . . .
 At seventeen, his Mother signed the papers . . . to insure his future dreams . . .
 For William was born to be, in The United States Army . . . Hooohah indeed . . .
 As this was to be, his final casting and molding . . . into a heart of Steele, you see . . .
 Letting this Chicago Lad, Be All That He Could Be . . .
 When, all in a moment of truth . . . as an explosion almost took his life, but lies the proof . . .
 As this young man's medal was to be tested, as where lies the truth . . .
 While, on the edge of death as he awoke with one leg left . . .
 As his tears would crest, as he remembered his Mother who him had blessed . . .
 In his head, the words she said, "There is no sense of looking down, hold your head up!"
 As somehow the strength he found . . .
 As from that moment on, his most gallant heart of Steele so moved on!
 To fight the good fight, burning bold . . . burning bright!
 For you see, The Army is William's life!
 As he would not give up, nor give in . . . until he's back in action again . . .
 For inside this heart of Steele, such warmth is revealed . . .
 And if ever I had a son, oh how I wish he could be like this one!
 Throughout our Country Tis of Thee, all in our nation we have seen . . .
 Hearts of Steele, Freedom Fighters like Dr. King, and Rosa Parks . . .
 Because, of all of their courage and sacrifice, and most magnificent hearts . . .
 Blessing this our country tis of thee!
 And now a new name to the list, of a young man who for us so much would give . . .
 With his heart of Freedom Fighter, teaching us all how to live!
 With but Hearts of Steele!

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, on July 4, the Nation will celebrate the 45th anniversary of the enactment of the Freedom of Information Act, FOIA. Now in its fifth decade, FOIA remains an indispensable tool for shedding light on government policies and government abuses. This premier open government law has helped to guarantee the public's "right to know" for generations of Americans.

Today, the U.S. Government is more committed than in any time in our history to making and keeping government open and accountable to the people. As one of his first official acts, President Obama signed an historic Presidential Memorandum on the Freedom of Information Act, which restored the presumption of disclosure for all government information. I applaud President Obama for his commitment to FOIA, and I will continue to work closely with his administration to ensure that our government fulfills both the letter and spirit of this remarkable memorandum.

While the Obama administration has made significant progress in improving the FOIA process, large backlogs re-

main a major roadblock to public access to information. A report released by the National Security Archive found that only about half of the Federal agencies surveyed have taken concrete steps to update their FOIA policies in light of the President's reforms. According to the Department of Justice's annual FOIA Report for fiscal year 2010, more than 69,000 FOIA requests remain backlogged across our government. These delays are simply unacceptable.

To address these concerns, in May, the Senate unanimously passed the Faster FOIA Act of 2011—a bill to establish a bipartisan commission to examine the root causes of agency delays in processing FOIA requests. Senator CORNYN and I first introduced this bill in 2005, because we were concerned about the growing problem of excessive FOIA delays within our Federal agencies. During the intervening years, this problem has not gone away. That is why in 2010, we reintroduced this bill and the Senate unanimously passed it. Unfortunately, the House of Representatives did not take action. After the Judiciary Committee's hearing on FOIA, which was held during the annual Sunshine Week in March, we reintroduced the Faster FOIA Act yet again—with the hope that the Congress would finally enact this good government legislation. I am pleased that the Senate has done its part to achieve this goal. On the occasion of this 45th anniversary of FOIA, I urge the House to act on this important bill so that the Commission on Freedom of Information Act Processing Delays can begin its important work.

I thank Senator CORNYN for his work on this bill and for his leadership on this issue. I also commend and thank the many open government and FOIA advocacy groups that have supported our efforts to bolster FOIA, including OpenTheGovernment.org, the Project on Government Oversight and the Sunshine in Government Initiative.

The right to know is a cornerstone of our democracy. Without it, citizens are kept in the dark about key policy decisions that directly affect their lives. Without open government, citizens cannot make informed choices at the ballot box. And once eroded, the right to know is hard to win back.

The House Committee Report that accompanied the Freedom of Information Act in 1966 stated:

it is vital to our way of life to reach a workable balance between the right of the public to know and the need of the Government to keep information in confidence to the extent necessary without permitting indiscriminate secrecy. The right of the individual to be able to find out how his Government is operating can be just as important to him as his right to privacy and his right to confide in his Government. This bill strikes a balance considering all these interests.

As we reflect upon the celebration of another FOIA anniversary, we in Congress must reaffirm the commitment to open and transparent government captured by these time-proven words.

Open government is neither a Democratic issue, nor a Republican issue—it is truly an American value and virtue that we all must uphold. It is in this bipartisan spirit that I join Americans from across the political spectrum in celebrating the 45th anniversary of FOIA and all that this law has come to symbolize about our vibrant democracy.

FBI EXTENSION OF SERVICE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, back on May 12, the President requested that Congress pass legislation to enable Robert Mueller to continue serving as Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, FBI, for up to 2 additional years, in light of the continuing threat to our Nation, the leadership transition at other key national security agencies, and the unique circumstances in which we find ourselves as the tenth anniversary of 9/11 approaches. In response to the President's request, a bipartisan group of Senators drafted and introduced S. 1103, a bill that would create a one-time exception to the statute limiting the term of the FBI Director by allowing the term of the incumbent FBI Director to continue for 2 additional years. Given the continuing threats to our Nation and the need to provide continuity and stability on the President's national security team, it is important that this critical legislation be enacted without delay.

Director Mueller's term expires on August 3, 2011. With the House out of session this week and the Senate out of session the next, there is relatively little time left to act. Of the 10 weeks between the President's request and the expiration of Director Mueller's term, six are gone already. More than half the time that we had in which to act has elapsed. If we do not complete action on this matter this week, the Senate will then be in recess until July 11. That leaves Congress only 3 weeks for all necessary action to be completed by the Senate and the House of Representatives.

We should be acting responsibly and expeditiously. I have worked diligently with Senator GRASSLEY in order to prevent a lapse in the term of the Director of the FBI. We must act on this bill without further, unnecessary delays. The Senate should take it up, consider it and pass it, and then the House will need to consider and pass the bill before the President has the opportunity to sign it. Each of these steps must be completed prior to the expiration of the Director's current 10-year term on August 3, 2011. There is no time to waste.

I understand from the Senate cloakroom that all Senate Democrats are prepared to take up and pass S. 1103 and send it to the House of Representatives for it to take final action before August 3. We should do that now, before the Fourth of July recess. There is no good reason for delay.