

"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 Aronen, 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, Aronen 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," Aronen 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," Aronen 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," Aronen said.

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