

years, including those of his baseball team and his classmates. To honor his memory, the City of Craig has recently dedicated a baseball field in remembrance of Jake.

Jake was known for giving 110 percent to everything that he did and held an optimistic spirit and enthusiasm for life. Jake touched everyone he encountered. The witnesses at the dedication ceremony were moved by their memories of the boy who never gave up in the face of insurmountable odds or defeat. On his baseball team, Jake was a key member on and off the field. He was the spirit of the team and was a constant cheering force for his teammates. He is fondly remembered by the Craig community and is deeply missed by his loving parents, family, and friends.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Craig will remember Jake as a boy whose short life was filled with joy and inspiration every time a team takes his field. This dedication will keep Jake's enthusiasm for life alive in the hearts of those he touched, and I am honored to be able to bring the enthusiasm and optimism of Jake Satterwhite to the attention of this body of Congress and this nation. While his family and friends continue to mourn his loss, I am confident his memory will live on through this wonderful baseball field.

MINNESOTA REP. DARLENE
LUTHER'S LASTING LEGACY

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 2002

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, we have all learned in the last eight months how fragile life can be, and how nobility and grace can rise from tragedy and sadness.

We have all mourned recently with our colleague Bill Luther the loss of his beloved wife, Darlene, who was a distinguished member of the Minnesota House of Representatives, as well as a loving wife and mother of Alex and Alicia Luther.

Mr. Speaker, I was profoundly moved by a recent story from the Fergus Falls Journal which reflects the great love Darlene and Bill shared for each other, as well as others.

The story, by Mary Mahoney, also speaks volumes about the enduring power of human kindness.

Because I would like to share this beautiful story of love, sacrifice and the enduring bond of friendship, I respectfully submit for the record the enclosed article from the Fergus Falls Journal of February 7, 2002, entitled "Family's gift of life leaves enduring bond," by Mary Mahoney.

More than 25 years before his unexpected death, Gary Bradow told his wife Norma that he wanted his organs donated.

"I told him that if he went first, I didn't know if I could do it," Norma said from her Fergus Falls home. "Gary told me I could, that I would just know it was right."

But nothing could have prepared Norma for the awful day that Gary died. A malformed artery in his brain caused a fatal stroke in March 1998 at the age of 57. Norma was faced with the one decision she didn't want to make.

"People think of 'harvesting' organs as an awful thing," she said. "But I realized we were farmers; harvesting is a wonderful thing for

farmers. And in the case of donating Gary's organs, 'harvesting' was wonderful too."

A man in Wisconsin received a kidney. A 63-year-old widow got another kidney. Two others received his eyes.

And State Rep. Darlene Luther was the recipient of Gary's liver, literally occurring hours before she would have died.

A simple thank-you letter written to Norma six months after the transplant established a bond that couldn't be broken—even after Darlene's death on Jan. 30.

"I don't think of myself as one but as two persons," she wrote, signing only her first name.

With those words, Norma knew she had to connect with this woman who had reached out to her.

"Her letter touched my heart in a way I just can't describe and I immediately called LifeSource and said I had to meet her," Norma said. "It took awhile, but two weeks before Christmas 1998, both of them (Darlene and her husband U.S. Representative Bill Luther) were here."

In the four years since Darlene's transplant, the Bradow family became dear and special friends with the Luthers, visiting often and corresponding frequently. Darlene even flew out to Seattle one day to have lunch with Norma and her daughter Pam, who lives in Seattle, and flew back the same afternoon.

"The bond we had was completely beyond words," Norma said. "She was such a kind and generous lady."

Another twist of fate connected the families as well. Bill, who grew up on a dairy farm near Fergus Falls and has relatives in the area, had briefly known Gary before his death.

"I knew of them and had spoken with Gary before all of this happened," Bill said. "And the odds that my wife would receive a liver transplant from a man from my hometown—it's just amazing the way life can bond people together."

To Darlene, it was a sign that more needed to be done to increase awareness of organ donation. She felt she was the perfect person to educate people about the benefits of organ donation as a state representative, and helped enact legislation providing funding for a mobile education unit for LifeSource, the organ donation procurement organization that helped secure her liver.

"She (Darlene) did such a great amount of work, getting families to talk about organ donation," said LifeSource Public Relations manager Susan Mau Larson. "She was a living statement of the wondrous good provided by organ donation."

The mobile unit is similar to a bookmobile, with displays and kiosks about organ donation. In late December, LifeSource presented a plaque that will hang in the mobile unit, thanking Darlene for all the work she's done for organ procurement.

Last week, a bill passed through the House of Representatives—named in honor of Darlene—making a person's organ donation wishes a binding contract, meaning a family member cannot override the decision. The Senate will begin its process on the bill today, Mau Larson said.

But despite the positive work Darlene provided, tragedy struck the Luthers—and the Bradows—once again.

"Darlene called me in late October to let me know she had stomach cancer," Norma said.

"The anti-rejection drugs masked the cancer and by the time they found out, it was inoperable."

It was then that the friendship shifted and Norma began helping Darlene the way she had been helped after her husband's death.

"I wrote her weekly notes, little inspirational things to encourage her," she said. "Her inner peace was phenomenal; she was such an inspiration to me—and I was trying to help her."

When Bill called Norma the morning after Darlene died, she said the news was heart-wrenching enough. But what came next practically took her breath away.

"Darlene had requested she be buried in Fergus Falls, where she could be near us," Norma said. "I burst into tears when Bill said that."

For Bill and his children Alex and Alicia, it was a natural decision.

"We were so appreciative of those four years Darlene received because of the transplant," Bill said. "The Bradows are part of our family."

He insisted that Norma ride in the lead car during the burial procession and that Gary's family, including his mother, Emma and daughters Tara and Debra, take part in the service held Wednesday afternoon at Oak Grove Cemetery.

"That's what they mean to us," Bill said. "And it's what Darlene would have wanted."

TRIBUTE TO MR. IRA JUNIOR
ANDERSON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 2002

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the courage and dedication of Mr. Ira Junior Anderson.

Mr. Anderson is a Korean war veteran who was recently recognized for his service and issued the Bronze Star Medal. Mr. Anderson will be honored on May 19, 2002 at Hardin-Central High School where he will also be receiving his honorary high school diploma. I feel honored to have Mr. Anderson living in the Sixth Congressional District of Missouri.

Mr. Anderson's family members and friends should take pride in what he has done for this country to keep it free and strong.

I commend Mr. Anderson for his courage and dedication and for allowing so many people to celebrate with him during this time. Mr. Anderson and other veterans like him have endured hardships and pain that most of us will never know. I again thank Mr. Anderson for his service and dedication to this great country. He makes the sixth district and all Americans very proud.

HONORING MS. JANET C. WOLF ON
THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT FROM THE NATIONAL
PARK SERVICE

HON. FRANK A. LoBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 2002

Mr. LoBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, it is with immense pride and accolade that I rise today to