



Thomas Report



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June 2009
E-NEWS

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Centenarian Built Railroads in Iran, Dug Tunnels in Wisconsin

One hundred and one congratulations to Louis Bartoletti on his 101st birthday on May 20. Louis was honored with a celebration from the seniors who attend the new senior center at the Elks Lodge at 5555 W. Good Hope Road. County Supervisor John Thomas presented him a citation plaque from the County Board, recounting some of Louis' life experiences.

Having been born in 1908, Louis is the eldest statesman at the senior center. In World War II, Louis served in the U.S. Army 711th Railroad Battalion in Iran, building and maintaining the railroad for more than three years. In the 1950's here in Wisconsin, between stints at the Pabst Brewery, he built tunnels for the railroad.

Louis and his wife Esther still live in the home built for him 53 years ago. Over the years, Louis has maintained a vegetable garden and has been a staunch fan of the Bucks and the Brewers. And according to colleagues at the center, "He can still pound a nail with a hammer." Best wishes, Louie and Esther, for a long and healthy future.

Thomas Supports Child Safety Alarm Law

County Supervisor John Thomas was present as Gov. Jim Doyle signed a bill into law on May 29 requiring child care providers and persons contracting with child care providers to install an approved child safety alarm in vans that transport children. The new law was named after Jalen Knox-Perkins, an infant who died when left in an unattended van.

Sup. Thomas is pleased to support the bill, saying, "Without demeaning the intentions of any child care workers and drivers, this bill provides an extra measure of protection for their young passengers. It is cost neutral, but it will save children's lives. It's a safety net to help protect our most precious resource."

Also present at the signing was State Senator Spencer Coggs, the bill's sponsor. Sup. Thomas congratulated him on this most worthy piece of legislation and thanked him on behalf of Milwaukee County, as a citizen and a father. Sen. Coggs has a history of supporting bills that benefit our children and youth.

The law is to take effect no later than August 1, 2009.