

Thank you Skylar! This tremendous young lady lives down the street from me and is someone I think so highly of - she is going to do great things in her life!

I am so humbled to receive this honor.... my first thought goes to all of the community members who volunteer and support our great schools - those who serve on Parent Teacher Organizations, those who help with booster clubs, those who volunteer reading at our elementary schools, those who have helped with levies - the list goes on and on of how our community supports our Centennial schools. So, on behalf of all of those folks, I accept this award.

Everyone in this room has played a huge role in making our schools so great - Thank You!!

I would like to introduce the people that I have invited to join me here today. Please stand when I call your name. (they didn't know this was coming! ☺)

- **Ken and Connie Pederson**, whose daughters attended Centennial and who are such great friends. Together we worry about our kids and wonder just how good of a job we are doing at parenting. But we also laugh and have fun together.
- **Deb O'Brien and Kurt Anderson** - Deb served on the Circle Pines City Council with me. She is so bright, so caring. She has always encouraged me and lifted me up - if you ever have some doubts, you want a booster like Deb in your life.
- **Chris Gerst** - principal at Golden Lake Elementary, which is just a few houses down the street from me and holds a special place in my heart. Chris is a natural born leader and I have such respect for him. High quality leadership from your principal is a key ingredient to a successful school, and Golden Lake is fortunate to have Chris at the helm.

- **Terri Klebe** - also from Golden Lake Elementary, I tell everyone who will listen that I am positive she is an Angel on earth. Terri works with kids who face serious challenges in their life. She gives them hope, she gives them love, she makes such a difference and on behalf of the community, I can't say thank you enough.
- **Lori Kordell** - I met Lori when our sons played hockey together. Lori works at the Pines School at the Anoka County Juvenile Center in Lino Lakes. Lori gives unconditional love for middle and high school kids who have gotten into serious trouble with the law. She believes no one is beyond redemption, no one is beyond hope. As a sign that she is 'all in' for the kids, she also started a nonprofit called Operation No Limits that provides additional services and support to the kids at the Pines School...I would love it if you would take a look at the work they are doing and give them your support ([www.operationnolimits.org](http://www.operationnolimits.org)). Please consider joining my family at their fundraiser on October 12th at Infinite Campus.

Terri and Lori help me remember why we all work so hard for our kids. We know some kids have the family and the resources to do just fine. But some of them have a lousy start that just isn't fair and they need our help. Some of them make mistakes and need to be given a second and a third chance, and they need to know that someone cares about them. Our community can't let these kids slip away. Terri and Lori's passion encourages me, it inspires me.

- **(Superintendents) Roger and Kay Worner** - Roger is one of my dearest friends and my mentor. He was the superintendent here at Centennial from 2005 - 2009. When I was elected Mayor in 2005, I went to work with Roger to figure out how our communities could better support and partner with our Schools. Operating levies had failed in 2002, 2003 and 2004. We were in tough shape. Roger was brought in as Superintendent and together with a lot of hard working folks, we passed a levy in 2005. We did great things together and he has made a big difference for our kids, and for my life.

- **My son Kyle** - it isn't often that a father gets to stand in front of a room full of important people and a TV camera and tell everyone how very proud he is of his son. It is my lucky day! He graduated from Centennial High School in 2013, Concordia College in 2017, works in the finance industry, and is such a grounded, caring young man. (And I should mention that he was in one play in his life, as a senior, when Mark Quinlan cast him as Judge Louis Brandies in Annie!). Janis and I will be the first to tell you that we were total amateurs at raising a child...and that we couldn't have done it without the great teachers and staff of the Centennial School District. I could start with Jen Wenzel and Taryn Flolid and Jaime Sobolik and go on and on. A big thanks to everyone who has helped Kyle along the way - he is a young man who will continue making a positive impact on kids and in the community!
- **My wife Janis** is the one who makes all of this happen. For over 33 years, she and I have made a great team. An Iron Ranger and a North Dakotan - who would have thunk! She grounds me - she pushes me - she encourages me to keep working to improve the community - she believes in me when sometimes I wonder if an effort is going to work out. And she loves a guy who is defined by high energy and high maintenance.  
Without her, I'm not standing here today.  
She is why I call myself 'Lucky Bartelmee'.

I am so **grateful** for all that has happened to me. I grew up in Fargo, North Dakota. My father had an 8th grade education out on the farm and was a lineman for 38 years for Northwestern Bell Telephone. My mom was also a farm kid, but she graduated from Concordia College, where she was supposed to find and marry a pastor, and instead fell in love with a smooth talking lineman that she met on a blind date. She made my Dad get his GED degree, and she pushed her children to focus on education. She was awful proud when I got my Master's degree and loved my passion for serving the community. My parents both passed away within the last 18 months, and I know they are looking down on me and smiling (unless there are casino's in heaven--then my father is busy).

I would like to share two of my favorite quotes that remind me of why I am so committed to serving my schools and my community:

The first is from Teddy Roosevelt, a man who said he would never have become president if it wasn't for the two years he spent as a cowboy in North Dakota. It is called **The Man in the Arena**:

“It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better.

The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood;

who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming;

but who does actually strive to do the deeds;

who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions;

who spends himself in a worthy cause;

who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.”

The other quote is from one of my heroes, Martin Luther: It reflects my faith and is my personal mission statement: I found it years ago when it was printed on the back of a T-shirt that Kyle wore on a mission trip:

God doesn't need your works, but your neighbor does.

Finally, I want to close by telling you about an important moment in my life....

As you may imagine, I'm often pressed by friends to run for a "higher" office.

This summer, on a beautiful Saturday morning, Janis and I were working on the gardens in our front yard by the street. We were discussing the pro's and con's of whether I should run for County Commissioner or perhaps the State Legislature some day. And at that moment, two young boys, perhaps 8 or 10 years old, rode by on their bikes. I have no idea who they were. And as they cruised by, they waved and hollered 'Hi Mayor Dave'.

And I knew right then that my place was **here**...where I can serve and make a real difference. Where I can use the lessons I've learned from the tremendous people who have been in my life, to help build a community that loves and supports and lifts up our kids.

Thank you again for the tremendous honor of being inducted into the Centennial Hall of Fame.

*(Dave Bartholomay for Centennial School District Hall of Fame Induction 9-27-2019)*