



Saint Louis County

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Kevin Z. Gray
County Administrator

July 22, 2013

To the citizens of the Second District and all of St. Louis County,

With the passing of Steve O'Neil, our County and this Board lost a true champion, a dedicated public servant, and a dear friend. Commissioner O'Neil dedicated his life to helping the less fortunate. For the last eight years, he has served with equal passion, the people of his district.

There is no way we can replace Steve O'Neil. However, we must move forward with the work of St. Louis County. To honor his memory, we can do no less. As we work through the process of filling the vacant Board seat - a process that is determined by state statute - we, as the County Board, are committed to serving you.

During this interim time, we encourage residents of the Second District to contact any of our commissioners with concerns you otherwise would have brought to Commissioner O'Neil. Each of us will do our best to answer questions, seek solutions and ensure you do not go unrepresented during this time. You can find our contact information online at www.stlouiscountymn.gov or by calling (218) 726-2450.

If Commissioner O'Neil had helped write this letter, he probably would suggest we include a quote from a wise philosopher, a saint or a political figure he admired. We, instead, will use a quote from another great man: Steve O'Neil. One of his final comments during what was his last Board meeting, was "It has been a great honor to serve on the Board." We share that belief. It is an honor for each of us to serve, to have known and worked with Steve O'Neil, and to now help the constituents of his district until a new Commissioner takes office.

Sincerely,

Chris Dahlberg, Board Chair
Mike Forsman, Vice-Chair
Frank Jewell, 1st District
Pete Stauber, 5th District
Keith Nelson, 6th District
Steve Raukar, 7th District