



National History Day 2009

The Individual in History: Actions and Legacies

The Minnesota Supreme Court Historical Society
recognized and rewarded these two projects:

Rudy Perpich: The People's Governor

by Jessica Biedler and John Knapp
St. Paul Open School

Rudy Perpich set examples for the nation with educational programs that were considered to be some of the most progressive of their time. Some of the educational programs that Governor Perpich had a hand in were Post Secondary Enrollment Options, the Open Enrollment policy and providing Area Learning Centers for struggling students.

Governor Perpich also played a particularly significant role in the history of the Minnesota Supreme Court



John Knapp and Jessica Biedler

by appointing three women to the Court — Rosalie Wahl, Ester Tomljanovich, and Sandra Garderbring — making it the first state supreme court in the United States to have a majority of women justices.



Justice Rosalie Wahl



Justice Ester Tomljanovich



Justice Sandra Garderbring

No Girls Allowed: Peg Brenden's Fight to Play

by Abi Jones and Kendre Pust
Sandburg Middle School

This project, a theatrical reenactment, recounts the landmark efforts of Peg Brenden from St. Cloud. As a high school senior in 1971 Ms. Brenden, with the support of Minnesota Civil Liberties Union, forged a court battle to be allowed to play on her high school's tennis team, which at the time, pursuant to Minnesota State High School League rules, was limited to males. In an historic ruling Judge Miles Lord granted an injunction allowing Ms. Brenden to play on the boys team. Her pioneering efforts have benefited many young women. Ms. Brenden went on to graduate from University of Minnesota Law School and now serves as a worker's compensation judge for the state of Minnesota.



Abi Jones and Kendre Pust
with Peg Brenden