



## **Iowa House of Representatives**

Mary Ann Hanusa spoke at the Treynor Optimist Club meeting on September 13. She is a representative in the Iowa House since 2011. She is Chairman of the Economic Growth Committee and on several other committees. She is also a school administrator at an elementary school in Council Bluffs.

Mary talked about when she was working in the White House on September 11, 2001. To get

there she completed her college Education degree. She always wanted to work in Washington DC, so she moved there to get a job after trying unsuccessfully to apply from Council Bluffs. She lived there with a friend's parents.

After a few months she got a job at the National Archives. That job went away when Clinton became President because she was a Republican

In 2000 she helped with the George W Bush campaign. In 2001 she went to work for him in the White House, working with his personal correspondence. Her office dealt with his personal friends and acquaintances. She called it the "Personal Touch" office. One of her duties was to draft letters for families of fallen soldiers. Bush personally signed each letter.

On September 11 she was working on a personal project for Mrs. Bush. She had spent 5 months in a walking cast because she had injured her ankle. That was her first day without a boot. Unfortunately, because of a lot of walking she did later that day, she injured her foot again.

After the attack she left the White House at 9:30 a.m. Since she didn't take along her apartment or car keys, she took a circuitous route to get home, arriving at 5:30 p.m. President Bush was in Florida. He flew to STRATCOM. He insisted that terrorists would not put a stop to the Government, so everyone went back to work the next day. He also defied the Secret Service and flew back to the White House to address the Nation in the evening on September 11.