

Alexander visits third-graders at Prompt Succor

Article published Mar 21, 2008
The Town Talk

Madison Crooks-Saucier stood near U.S. Rep. Rodney Alexander and looked up with a smile.

The 9-year-old's eyes lit up and the smile grew wider when Alexander handed her a flag that had briefly flown over the Capitol in Washington, D.C.

"Thank you," she whispered.

"It was so cool," Madison said after Alexander's visit to Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic School on Thursday.

All of the school's third-graders were assigned to do a report on a Louisiana politician, and Madison was assigned Alexander.

Madison didn't just look up information on the internet for her report but set up an interview with Alexander.

She was going to ask Alexander, R-Quitman, to come speak with her class but got nervous. So, Alexander asked Madison if he could come visit.

Madison's mother, Rena' Crooks-Saucier, said her daughter has been excited about the visit.

"She could hardly wait," Crooks-Saucier said.

Alexander not only presented Madison with a flag but also stayed to talk with the third-grade children.

The children asked him a variety of questions about politics, laws and the Democratic and Republican parties.

They also asked if he was interested in being president to which Alexander answered "no." He said he was content where he was at.

The children wanted to know if he



Tia Owens-Powers/The Town Talk

U.S. Rep. Rodney Alexander, R-Quitman, gives an American flag that flew over the Capitol in Washington to Madison Crooks-Saucier, 9, after she did a report for school on the congressman. Alexander visited the students in her class at Our Lady of Prompt Succor on Thursday, March 20, 2008.

had a private jet, a limo and if he was friends with President Bush.

Alexander answered no to the first two and said he would like to think he and the president are friends. He

shared with the children how he had flown previously in the president's plane to Alexandria.

Alexander called the experience "pretty cool."

Alexander talked to the children about laws, how he got into politics and showed them his personal booklet on the Constitution that he carries with him along with a list of all 14 soldiers from the Fifth Congressional District of Louisiana who had died in the Iraq War.

"It is a reminder," Alexander said.

"This is a great opportunity and experience for these children," said Rebecca Foltz, third-grade teacher. "For them to see a political figure first-hand and ask questions is wonderful. They love it."

Madison wasn't sure when she was assigned Alexander. He was not a politician she was familiar with but that has changed.

She said Alexander was "just like my Paw Paw." They both have three children and six grandchildren, the child said.

She also learned that Alexander and her dad went to the same college -- Louisiana Tech University -- and that Alexander doesn't have to buy a postage stamp but simply sign his name where the stamp goes for things to be mailed out.

"It was so neat to meet him," Madison said.

Madison did so well on her report and visual aid, which was a poster, that she earned a 100 on both.