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CAPITOL REPORT

Committees have now sent bills to the full House to be considered this week. There has been good debate on the floor and we are voting on legislation. This week's Capitol Report will cover the status of some of that legislation and share a very proud moment I experienced this week.

Legislation

By a vote of 140-15, the Missouri House of Representatives approved a resolution (HCR 7) rejecting a tax increase on agricultural land proposed by the State Tax Commission. Missouri farmers are currently carrying some of the highest debt load in the nation and simply cannot afford to pay a tax increase at this time. I support our Johnson County farmers and voted to reject the tax increase.

In the House Budget Committee we heard testimony on two pieces of legislation. HCR 34/35 offered jointly by Rep. Chris Kelly (D-Columbia) and Rep. Allen Icet (R-Wildwood) submits to Congress a proposed federal balanced budget amendment to the United States Constitution. Missouri must pass a balanced budget, so shouldn't the federal government?

HCR 38 offered by Rep. Icet urgently requests the United States Congress to cease and desist from imposing unfunded mandates on the states. When Congress requires Missouri to implement programs without the funding to pay for them, we must either cut spending or raise state taxes to fund these programs. Raising taxes is not an option I favor. If the federal government believes these mandates to be that important, the federal government should figure out how to pay for these federal programs and not pass the burden on to the states.

I voted in favor of both of these House Concurrent Resolutions and am pleased to report they both passed unanimously out of the Budget Committee to go to the full House.

The House Committee on Governmental Accountability and Ethics Reform met again this week to hear testimony on several ethics reform bills. One ethical reform the legislature should address is proper disclosure for campaign rhetoric. I was the subject of a prime example of campaign rhetoric just this week. Disguised as a "survey," a company called Liberty Polling conducted a biased telephone "push-poll" in my district. When asked who paid for the "survey," Liberty Polling would not answer the question. The issue here is not that there was a poll, but that it was veiled and not actually a survey at all. In the name of good ethics and

transparency, whoever is paying for the “survey” should be disclosed, especially when the recipient of the call requests that information. I appreciated hearing from a number of constituents that you did not welcome this call. I won’t commit space here to go into details about what I was told about the calls, but I’d be happy to discuss it further if you would like.

An Extremely Special Event

Brigadier General Larry D. Kay presented me with a Missouri flag this week that was flown over Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo in my honor. What makes this flag especially unique is that it was not flown from a flagpole but personally flown over Camp Bondsteel in a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter by Brigadier General Kay. He also presented me with a Kosovo engagement coin. The Missouri flag and the coin will be displayed with great honor in my Capitol office. I am truly humbled by these mementos. They will serve as a vivid reminder of the dedication of our members of the military, both active and reservists, to ensure our freedoms. Please take special note of them when visiting me in the Capitol.

I also took the opportunity to visit with Brigadier General Kay relative to his responsibilities as Executive Director of the Missouri Veterans Commission about the Warrensburg Veterans Home. It is no accident that Warrensburg is a premier veterans home in the United States. This is due to the exemplary staff who have genuine compassion and care for very special men and women who served our country with distinction.

Until the Next Capitol Report

I am here because you elected me as your State Representative. My intention is to serve you and the best interests of District 121, without letting anything else get in my way. You know the value of hard work and strong values, and I can promise you I work to uphold those values. With every vote I take, I never forget the trust Johnson Countians have placed in me.

It is truly my privilege to serve as your state representative in the 121st District. Please share this report with anyone you feel would be interested in this information.

Respectfully,

Denny Hoskins

State Representative
District 121