

The Loudon Times

A Weekly Report from the Missouri State Senate

Published by the office of Senator John Loudon

13 January 2005

Dear Friends,

Welcome to your connection with the Capitol. The Loudon Times will be my way to assist you with staying updated with “your” government.

It is my honor to once again be your voice in Jefferson City. My office is open to assist you with your needs. Please feel free to get in touch with them. As always, if you wish to be removed from this distribution list please let us know.

Let me introduce my staff. My Chief of Staff is Mark Meuser who will run the office. And Julie Murphy returns as my administrative assistant. Also new this year is Chris Fluharty from Southwest Missouri State University, who joins us as an intern.

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Senators Sworn in, then Sworn at

The first day saw newly elected and re-elected senators sworn in. Many special guests were on hand to witness this humbling event. The press, too, was on its feeding frenzy trying to catch that perfect shot and exclusive story. The Kansas City Star had the shot of the day, in my opinion, when they put this photo on the front page of their “Metropolitan” section featuring my daughter Lily Love Loudon at the opening ceremony. The tone in Jefferson City was not calm for long. As I like to say, we were sworn in on Wednesday and already “sworn at” by Thursday!



Photo by Jill Toyoshiba/The Kansas City Star

Bill of Rights Essay contest winners honored by Senators

Four students from St. Louis County were acknowledged for their winning essays in the annual Bill of Rights Essay Contest. This year, the winner, Mary Bax from Parkway West read the Bill of Rights during the opening session. The other winners were also recognized. Their names are as follows: Second Place was Evan Milnor from Whitfield and Third Place was Lauren Stiffelman also from Parkway West and Beth Anne Roberts from Marquette. There were 35 essays this year, many exhibited outstanding writing and analytical ability.

Committees announced

I will again chair the Small Business, Insurance and Industrial Relations committee and will Vice Chair the Governmental Accountability and fiscal Oversight committee. I will continue on the Gubernatorial Appointments, Education, and Judiciary and Civil & Criminal Jurisprudence committee.

Governor's Ball a Hit

Monday the 7th Senatorial District hosted a reception for over 400 visitors during the day's activities. Many first time visitors were in awe, not just the awe of our fine Capitol building, but also for the new opportunities that come with a Republican Governor, Matt Blunt.

President Bush kidnapped! During the festivities someone kidnapped a cut out of the president. But rest assured he has been found safe and sound and is at his post. The men and women of the Capitol police were at their post and the presidential image was returned to its rightful place. The identity of the wrongdoers remains a mystery.

Committee Action Begins

The Senate, now headed by President-Tempore Mike Gibbons, of Kirkwood, was the first to act. The House under the leadership of Speaker Rod Jetton, of Marble Hill is undergoing a bold new reorganization. A delegation of House members spent several days in Washington D.C. with the US House parliamentarian. They are delaying legislative action in favor of instituting new rules of operation. This will be a landmark in Missouri.

Your Small Business committee began with a brief hearing on SB130. A silly misinterpretation of trucking owner/operator laws has made some Missouri trucking companies liable for the workplace injuries of their subcontractors. Next, the committee began the first hearing on SB1 (the Workers' Compensation overhaul bill). While this is my 11th year working on this legislation, Governor Blunt is making it a priority, and thus has breathed new life into our efforts. Look for us to finally get this done.

The first full week has brought many exciting events and I believe this will be a great session. Until next week, may your efforts be blessed. Thank you!