



Southeast Missouri well represented throughout inaugural festivities.

On Monday, January 10th Matt Blunt was inaugurated as Missouri's 54th Governor and Peter Kinder was inaugurated as Missouri's 46th Lieutenant Governor. Many from Southeast Missouri participated in the inaugural events, and I couldn't be more proud at how well our area was represented.

The Cape Central Band, lead by band director Neil Casey, marched in the inaugural parade Monday morning. The entire band, along with parents and instructors, included over 90 people. The band performed the song "America", and did an outstanding job representing our area. I had the privilege of leading the group on a tour of the capitol, visiting the floor of the House and Senate Chamber.

Southeast Missouri State University alumnus and Sikeston native Neal Boyd sang the national anthem before the official swearing-in ceremony. Neal did such a wonderful job that he became an instant celebrity. I had a chance to visit with Neal after the ceremony, during which time dozens of people approached Neal offering their congratulations and complementing him on his performance.

During the actual inauguration ceremony, Missouri Speaker of the House Rod Jetton, R-Marble Hill, led the pledge of allegiance. Missouri Supreme Court Justice Stephen Limbaugh Jr., of Cape Girardeau, conducted the swearing in ceremony for both Governor Matt Blunt and Lieutenant Governor Peter Kinder.

Rounding out the evening was the Jerry Ford Orchestra. Back by popular demand, the Cape Girardeau group provided the music at the Governor's inaugural ball. In 2002, the Jerry Ford Orchestra was very popular with patrons when they provided the music for the Legislative inaugural. The band kept the dance floor packed Monday night, providing another great performance.

Throughout the day, I visited with constituents from the 27th district in my capitol office. Well over 400 people stopped by, including visitors from - Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Madison, Mississippi, Perry and Scott counties.

Thank you to everyone for participating in this great day. Please, if you know members of the Cape Central Band or the Jerry Ford Orchestra, congratulate them on their performances. For those of you who know Neal Boyd, I encourage you to congratulate him as well on a job well done.

Contact Me

As always, I appreciate hearing your comments, opinions and concerns. Please feel free to contact me in Jefferson City at (573) 751-2459 or you may write to me at Jason Crowell; Missouri Senate; State Capitol; Jefferson City, MO 65101, email me at: jcrowell@senate.mo.gov or visit me on the web at <http://www.jasoncrowell.com>.

Thank you for your time.