

Senator Jason Crowell

CROWELL

CONNECTION

August 2006

**No New Taxes -
Missouri's Budget**

**Bridges and Roads for
Southeast Missouri**

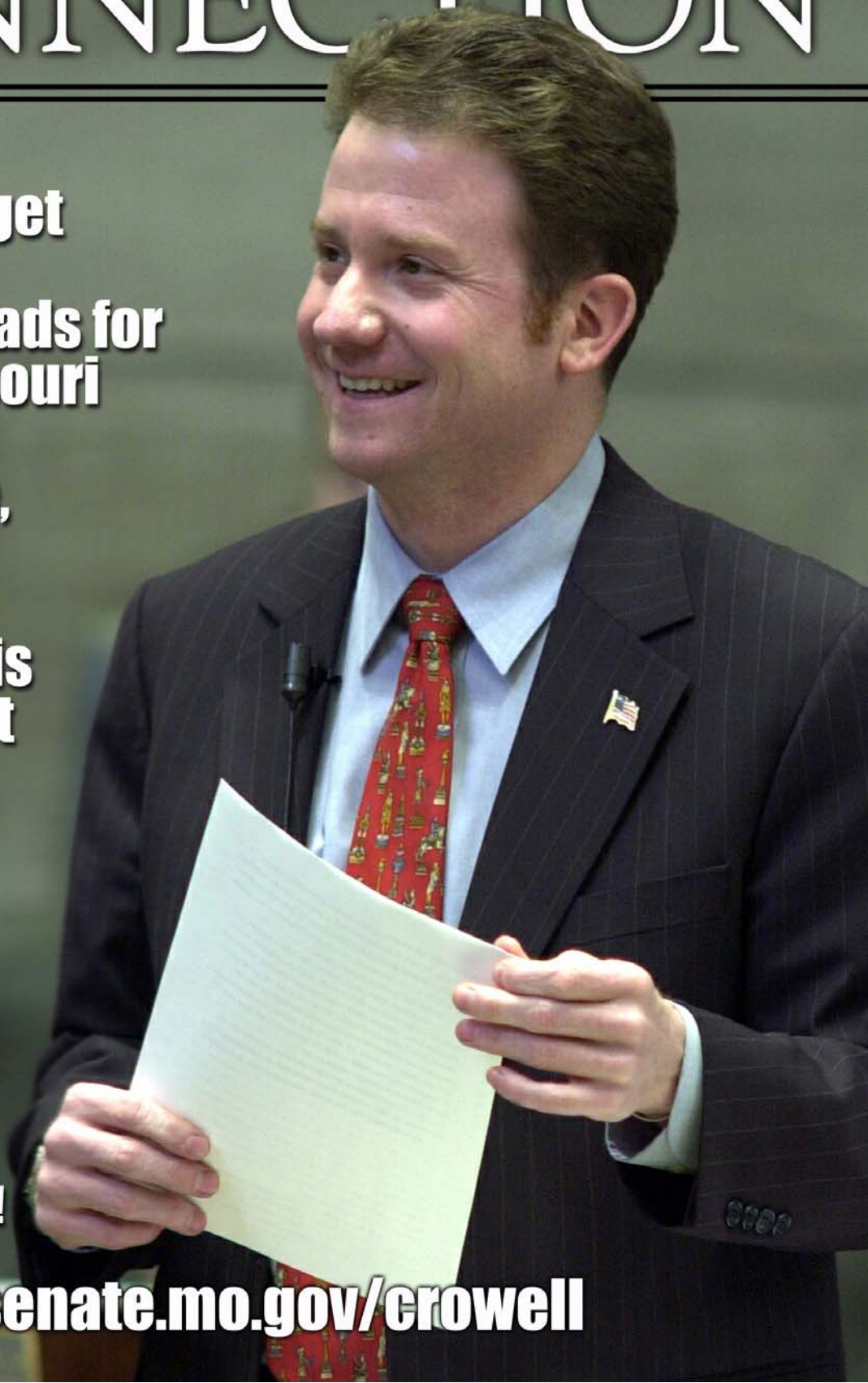
**Promises Made,
Promises Kept**

**What Missouri is
Doing to Protect
Your Children**



More Photos Inside!

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MISSOURI SENATE

JASON G. CROWELL
DISTRICT 27

AUGUST, 2006

Another exciting and productive session has come to a close. I want to take this opportunity to share with you important legislation we passed before we adjourned in May.

Back in January, I announced three promises. I promised to work to increase access to health care, develop alternative fuels and stop eminent domain abuses. I am proud to announce that the General Assembly delivered on all three of these promises.

My colleagues and I continued to make education funding our number-one priority when we added more than \$173 million to K-12 education for Fiscal Year 2007, bringing the two-year funding increase to \$331 million. Also, universities and community colleges will receive a 2 percent increase in funding. As a result, Southeast Missouri State University will receive close to \$1 million more in core funding.

The work did not stop there: we passed legislation that will make our children safer by increasing penalties for sexual predators. We also passed legislation that will reduce voter fraud and solidify the integrity of our election system. Additionally, we were successful in adding a tax credit for charitable donations to pregnancy resource centers that offer support and counseling to women who choose life over abortion.

I am proud of the work that we accomplished. These changes will ensure that our state continues on its resurgent path. I am thankful for the opportunity to serve you in the Missouri Senate and want to extend to you an invitation to visit the Missouri Capitol.

God bless you and God bless America.

SENATOR JASON CROWELL PROUDLY REPRESENTS THE PEOPLE OF BOLLINGER,
CAPE GIRARDEAU, MADISON, MISSISSIPPI, PERRY AND SCOTT COUNTIES.

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2006 - Year in Pictures



Volunteers with the Missouri Alzheimer's Association from Southeast Missouri meet with Sen. Crowell to advocate for those affected by Alzheimer's.



Sikeston - Sen. Crowell presents the 2005 Missouri Primary Care Association Immunization Award to the Sikeston Family Clinic. Pictured from left to right are Debbie Wolford, Janice Pirner, Sen. Crowell and Dr. Ilyaf Burney.



Sen. Crowell presents a resolution to 82-year-old Virginia Rahkopf in recognition of her receiving the Southeast Missouri Region 2006 Older Worker Award.



Sen. Crowell presents a resolution to Vaughn Prost (center) of Prost Builders and Thomas Meyer for their efforts to restore the Marquette Hotel in Cape Girardeau.



Dr. Shannon Kirchoff, Sen. Crowell, Dr. Jayne Scherrman and Dr. Bob Fox meet for Missouri Dental Association Day at the Capitol.



Sen. Crowell and House Speaker Rod Jetton with participants of the Sophomore Pilgrimage on April 11, 2006.

Eminent Domain: DO NOT CROSS SEIZED PROPERTY

Promise Kept: Stop Eminent Domain Abuses

As a supporter of property rights, I strongly opposed the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Kelo v. New London*. The decision allowed governments to seize private property from one person and give it to another private interest for their use and profit.

One of my top priorities entering this legislative session was helping to pass strong reforms to Missouri's eminent domain laws. The goal was to stop the abuse of eminent domain.

In the end we succeeded and passed House Bill 1944. With this legislation in place, the owners of homes, businesses and farms now have protections against the government's power to take property when there is no clear public use.

The key provisions of the new law include:

"Heritage Value"

If a farm or business has been in the same family for a minimum of 50 consecutive years, the owner will receive an additional 50 percent of fair market value on the property.

"Homestead Taking"

If the property taken is the primary residence of the owner, the owner will receive an additional 25 percent of fair market value.

"Replacement Costs"

The cost of setting up a farm or business in a new location will be taken into account when calculating fair market value of a property.

"Landowner's Bill of Rights"

Landowners will be better educated on the eminent domain process as they will receive information on their rights.

"Increased Notification"

Previously, landowners had only 30 days notification for an intent to condemn a property. The new legislation increases the time to 60 days.

"Farmland"

Under House Bill 1944, farmland may not be considered blighted.



On February 21, 2006, these officers from the Southeast Missouri chapter of Future Farmers of America visited the Capitol for their state luncheon.

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS



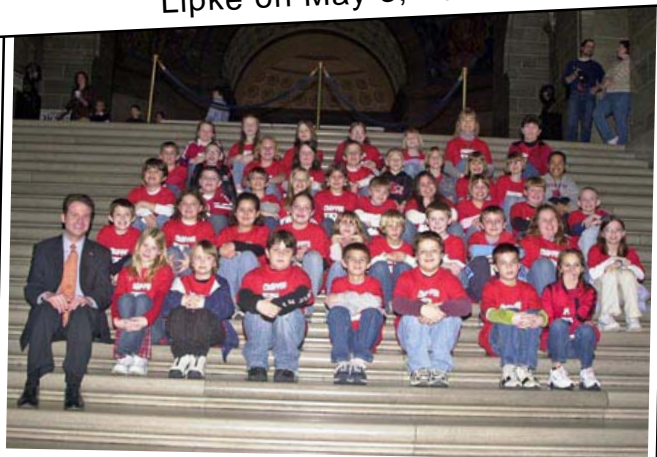
Sen. Crowell met with this large group of fourth-graders from Alma Schrader School on April 20, 2006.



Altenburg Elementary School eighth-graders visited Sen. Crowell and Rep. Lipke on May 3, 2006.



On March 2, 2006, a group of Cape Christian School fourth-graders visited Sen. Crowell.



Fourth-graders from Chaffee School visited the senator on March 8, 2006.



Students from Deer Creek Christian Academy visited the Capitol on March 30, 2006.



Sen. Crowell visited with a group of fourth-graders from Nell Holcomb School on April 27, 2006.

State Budget: No New Taxes

The job-enhancing reforms we made last year helped turn a nearly \$1 billion budget deficit into a small, but real, surplus. Since January 2005, nearly 50,000 jobs have been created, and unemployment is at its lowest level since the summer of 2001. The bottom line is, more Missourians are working and paying taxes, rather than fewer Missourians paying more in taxes. And the result is that general revenue has grown 9.2 percent over last year, marking the most significant increase in at least two decades. This represents nearly \$300 million in surplus funds.

By the numbers:

47,700 new jobs created since Jan. 2005

4.5% unemployment, lowest since 2001

9.2% increase in general revenue

Figures provided by Dept. of Economic Development and Senate Appropriations.

- **Health Care** — The largest single increase in this year's budget was to fund the state's Medicaid program, as we added \$282 million (HB 1010 and 1011).
- **In-Home Health Services** — The 2007 budget provides \$27 million for in-home health services, which will help seniors remain in their homes, near their friends and families (HB 1010).
- **Pay Raise** — State employees received an across-the-board 4 percent salary increase, the first raise state employees have seen in several years. The raise does not include elected officials.

State Budget: 27th Senate District

- **Parkview State School for the Severely Handicapped** will receive \$100,000 to go towards playground equipment.

"This playground will help these children really feel like children because they will have a fun and safe place to play," said Linda Rohde, Parkview State School PTO president. "We thank Sen. Crowell for helping to get this funding in place."

- **Cape Girardeau Career & Technology Center** will receive \$750,000.

"This appropriation will spearhead the continued growth and expansion of programs offered at the center," said Richard Payne, CTC director. "The investment in human capital will have a greatly positive economic development impact for the region as a whole."

State Budget: 27th Senate District

Southeast Missouri State University	\$ 44,734,189
Foundation Formula	\$ 68,580,570
Parkview State School	\$ 2,381,630
State Parks / Historic Sites	\$ 751,723
SEMO Innovation Center	\$ 200,000
Southeast Center for Autism	\$ 200,000
Cape Girardeau Veteran's Home	\$ 7,058,939
Southeast Correctional Center	\$ 11,644,042
Cottonwood Residential Treatment Center	\$ 1,667,133
Sikeston Regional Center	\$ 2,746,770
TOTAL	\$ 139,964,996

Numbers based on projections provided by Senate Appropriations.



Sen. Crowell at the Student Council State Convention hosted by Cape Central High School.

School Funding by District:

We made funding education our number-one priority last year by adding \$158 million to the K-12 education budget, and we continued that trend by adding an additional \$173 million this year. Missouri state colleges and universities also received an additional \$17.1 million in funding; Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau will receive close to \$1 million of this allocation, for a state funding total of \$44.7 million.

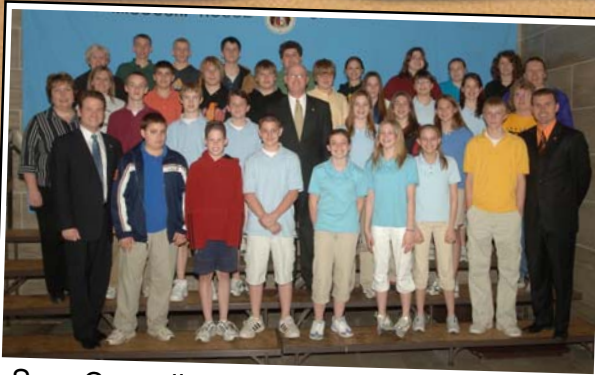
SCHOOL	FY '06 State Funding	FY '07 State Funding	FY '07 Increase	% Increase
Meadow Heights	\$1,670,807	\$1,788,469	\$117,662	7.04%
Leopold	\$749,454	\$849,587	\$100,133	13.36%
Zalma	\$872,745	\$982,650	\$109,905	12.59%
Woodland	\$2,726,409	\$2,950,289	\$223,880	8.21%
Jackson	\$10,993,743	\$11,597,221	\$603,478	5.49%
Delta	\$1,144,548	\$1,301,462	\$156,914	13.71%
Oak Ridge	\$1,358,244	\$1,393,309	\$35,065	2.58%
Cape Girardeau	\$5,414,119	\$5,894,710	\$480,591	8.88%
Nell Holcomb	\$804,080	\$878,840	\$74,760	9.30%
Marquand-Zion	\$767,685	\$886,585	\$118,900	15.49%
Fredericktown	\$5,630,644	\$5,853,920	\$223,276	3.97%
East Prairie	\$3,309,335	\$3,539,993	\$230,658	6.97%
Charleston	\$3,583,304	\$3,816,362	\$233,058	6.50%
Perry County	\$3,363,671	\$3,585,464	\$221,793	6.59%
Altenburg	\$225,293	\$286,221	\$60,928	27.04%
Scott City R-I	\$2,681,293	\$2,913,582	\$232,289	8.66%
Scott County R-II	\$1,643,161	\$1,783,839	\$140,678	8.56%
Scott County R-IV	\$3,058,318	\$3,239,982	\$181,664	5.94%
Scott County Central	\$1,569,162	\$1,614,730	\$45,568	2.90%
Sikeston	\$11,173,827	\$11,786,113	\$612,286	5.48%
Kelso	\$267,731	\$344,700	\$76,969	28.75%
Oran	\$1,243,390	\$1,292,542	\$49,152	3.95%
TOTALS	\$64,250,963	\$68,580,570	\$4,329,607	9.64% (avg.)

Numbers based on projections provided by Senate Appropriations staff, May 2006



Sen. Crowell received the Missouri State Teachers Association Award recognizing his commitment to promoting education. Below left, MSTA President Tami Pasley presents the award to Sen. Crowell. Below right, Sen. Crowell visits with members of MSTA in his Capitol office.

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS



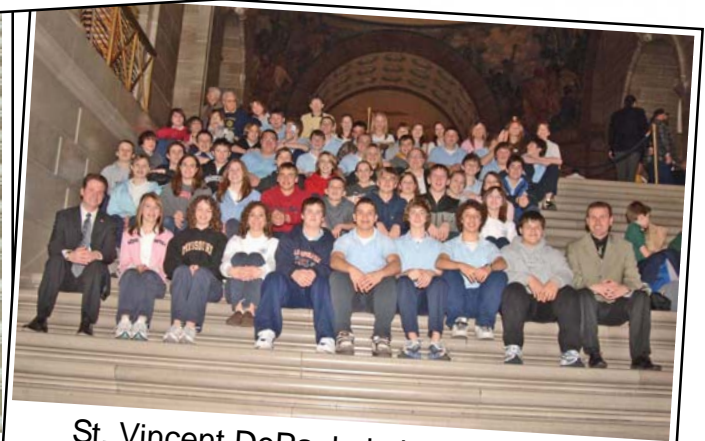
Sen. Crowell and Rep. Tilley with students from Immanuel Lutheran seventh and eighth grade on March 29.



On April 20, Sen. Crowell got a visit from Immaculate Conception eighth-graders.



These seventh-graders from St. Paul Lutheran visited Sen. Crowell at the Capitol on April 12.



St. Vincent DePaul ninth-graders from Perryville visited Sen. Crowell and Rep. Tilley on March 28.



Seventh- and eighth-graders from St. Vincent DePaul in Cape Girardeau visited Sen. Crowell on April 6 in the Senate Chamber.

Ethanol:

Promise Kept: Develop Alternative Fuels

Everyone is aware of rising gas prices. Missouri took action this session and passed legislation creating a standard that gasoline sold in Missouri contain 10 percent ethanol. Minnesota, Montana, Washington and Hawaii already have a 10 percent standard.

Ethanol is refined from corn, so the new standard will help America reduce its dangerous dependence on foreign oil from the most unstable parts of the world, including the Middle East. The standard will greatly benefit rural Missouri, especially farmers who will see stronger demand for the corn they grow.

Gasoline containing ethanol is typically cheaper than regular fuel, so consumers should see relief at the pump. Exceptions to the standard include premium gasoline and fuel used for aircraft. Additionally, if ethanol-blended gasoline ever becomes more expensive than regular gasoline, the standard will be waived.

Advantages of E-10 Fuel Include:

- Reduced dependence on foreign oil
- Reduced prices at the pump
- Creation of 3,000 new jobs and \$400 million in economic activity
- Reduced carbon monoxide emissions
- Improved engine performance by keeping engines cleaner

What is E-10?

E-10 is simply a blend of 10 percent ethanol and 90 percent gasoline.



Sen. Crowell listens to former State Rep. David Schwab on the future of Missouri agriculture.

Other Energy Issues: Utilicare



High energy costs were not only felt at the gas pump; winter heating bills were also on the rise as the price of utilities increased significantly.

To help low-income and elderly Missourians pay for their winter heating bills, the Legislature passed House Bill 1015, an emergency supplemental bill that put nearly \$6.1 million toward the state's Utilicare Stabilization Fund.

Utilicare had not been funded since 2001, but due to the state's modest budget surplus, we were able to provide significant assistance to those in need.

Bridges and Roads for Southeast Missouri

The Missouri Department of Transportation received a record \$2.6 billion for the upcoming fiscal year. The funds for the increased budget came from both state and federal sources, with Senator Kit Bond as the main proponent of the federal transportation bill.



MoDOT 2006 Projects:

Interstate 55 – Southeast Missouri's main artery will continue to receive extensive work. Essentially the entire stretch of interstate from St. Louis to the Arkansas border will be resurfaced over a three-year period.

Interstate 57 – This 22-mile stretch of interstate running from I-55 to the Illinois state line will be resurfaced.

Route 34 Corridor – In 2005, traffic signals were added to Route 34/72 in Jackson. The next phase, which will begin this summer, includes plans to widen, resurface, and add curbs, gutters, and additional signals.

East Main Street/ La Salle Avenue – In conjunction with the development of a technology park for Southeast Missouri State University, construction will begin this fall on a project that will bring direct access to I-55, 2.4 miles north of Route 34/61. Included are plans to extend East Main Street out of Jackson and La Salle Avenue out of Cape Girardeau. The project should be completed by the winter of 2007.

Route 61 – Resurface 10.5 miles from Routes 25/34/72 intersection to I-55.

Route K (William St.) – Resurface from Route 25 at Gordonville, to Route 61.

Route D – Install traffic signals at Route D and Farmington Rd.

Route K – Main Street in Scott City will undergo resurfacing from I-55 to Route N in Scott City.

Route 80 – A bridge over Route 80 a half-mile west of Route 77 is scheduled for improvements this summer.

Route 72 – Bridges at Castor River and Cape Creek in Madison County will be replaced, and the intersection at Patton Junction at the Route 72/Route 51 intersection.



Protecting Our Children

Sex offenders targeting children will now face tougher sentences under legislation passed by the General Assembly this year. HB 1698, Missouri's "Jessica's Law," imposes lifetime prison terms for those who commit sexual offenses against children, with a minimum of 30 years served. "Persistent" offenders will now serve life without parole, up from the previous 30-year requirement.

The law also closes a loophole for predators who use the Internet to lure children. Law enforcement officers can now apprehend would-be offenders posing as children in chat rooms and other high-risk areas on the Internet.

Additionally, the legislation also provides restrictions for sexually violent predators who are released from the state's system. More information is now available on the sex offender registry, and sex offenders will be more closely monitored.

With these changes, Missouri has made it clear that we will not tolerate sexual predators who destroy the innocence of defenseless children.

Missouri's Plan to Protect Your Children:

Increased Punishment	Greater Awareness	Improved Access	Better Monitoring
The new law increases from five to 30 years the minimum punishment for anyone who commits forcible rape or forcible sodomy on a child who is under the age of 12.	The state's sex offender registry was improved and now must also show all known aliases, any available photos, physical descriptions, release dates and any other pertinent details.	In addition to accessing the sex offender registry on the Web, Missourians can now call a toll-free telephone number maintained by the Highway Patrol to acquire information.	Missouri will improve the monitoring of child sex offenders by being among the first states to implement lifetime electronic monitoring with Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) technology.

Pregnancy Support Centers Receive Boost

This year, the Legislature passed more common-sense changes that will help protect the lives of the unborn. We passed a tax credit for charitable donations to pregnancy resource centers offering support to women who otherwise may choose an abortion. These centers provide services for pregnant women and include counseling, parenting classes and pregnancy tests.

At a time that is often hectic and confusing for expectant mothers, the centers are a source of comfort and stability as they help put things in perspective so the best decision can be made for all parties involved.



Access to Health Care

Promise Kept: Associated Health Plans

From 2000 to 2004, it is estimated that more than 450,000 employees lost their employer-sponsored health insurance. These employees either ended up on the Medicaid rolls or are without health insurance.

In response to this trend, I worked to pass legislation that will help small businesses provide health insurance to their employees. In Missouri, 88 percent of businesses have fewer than 25 employees, so they do not have strength in numbers. However, most businesses do belong to an association.

The solution is to increase the bargaining power by allowing small-business associations to purchase health insurance for their members. House Bill 1827 makes a change to state law that will help free up the market, thereby enabling associations to purchase health insurance.

Small businesses help fuel our economy, but the cost of health insurance can devastate these companies. The legislation will work to relieve that cost, and the result will be more people with affordable access to healthcare.



Sen. Crowell presents a resolution to Stephen Mills, owner of Joey's Seafood & Grill in Cape Girardeau, during a business showcase breakfast at the Capitol.

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