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Senator Jason Crowell – Serving Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Madison, Mississippi, Perry, and Scott Counties.

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## A VISIT TO YOUR STATE CAPITOL IN JEFFERSON CITY

The Missouri State Capitol belongs to you—the citizens of the great State of Missouri. It serves as the center of all state government activities and the birthplace of the laws that govern Missourians. It also is a magnificent memorial to our rich Midwestern heritage and a symbol of the state's steady growth and commitment to a bright and successful future.

It is a humbling experience to have the opportunity to work in this beautiful marble structure and I appreciate opportunities to show off the Capitol to visiting constituents. Each year, I look forward to school groups from Southeast Missouri visiting the Capitol because I enjoy watching the wonder on the kids' faces as



they explore the floors of the Capitol. The dioramas in the museum are interesting to them, and they get endearingly frustrated when they are told they are not allowed to sit in the big, red stagecoach. But they forget their frustrations when we move on to their ultimate goal: getting as high as they can in the Capitol.

Frequently, I am able to take school groups and other visitors up to the top of the

Capitol Dome. This is one of the highlights of their Capitol visit, ranking right up there with seeing the Thomas Hart Benton murals in the House Lounge. The Whispering Gallery is a stop we make on the trek upwards because visitors enjoy trying to be heard across the



dome with only a whisper. After many flights of stairs in the innards of the Capitol dome, visitors can see the hoist that raises and lowers the gigantic chandelier that hangs over all the rotundas. After ascending a spiral staircase, the destination of the journey is reached — the rooftop. Visitors can then go outside on the roof to

look out on the Missouri River bluffs, take in the expanse of Jefferson City or catch a glimpse of the falcon that has a nest out there.

Being able to "go back" to places that intrigued and inspired us as children is a blessing, and I am thankful that my constituents have given me the opportunity to reexperience the splendor of this glorious bastion of state government through their eyes as if I'm seeing it for the first time.

If you haven't already, or if you wish to come again, I encourage you to work a visit to the Capitol into your schedule. If you want to see the House and Senate in session, then plan to visit sometime during mid-January to mid-May. Free guided tours are available Monday through Saturday, on the hour, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. except 12:00 p.m. On Sunday, the only tours available are the House Lounge tours at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. For more information, or to schedule a tour, call our office at (573) 751-2459. We will be happy to schedule a tour or assist you in any way so we can to make the most of your visit.

Your continued participation and interest in government activities will help keep our Missouri heritage alive. It will insure that Missouri has a government where, as is etched in stone on the walls of the Capitol, "The Welfare of the People Shall Be the Supreme Law."

## **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. You may write to me at Jason Crowell; Missouri Senate; State Capitol; Jefferson City, MO 65101, or email me at: jcrowell@senate.mo.gov or visit me on the web at http://www.jasoncrowell.com.

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