



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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A Weekly Column for the
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A Busy Week in the District

Turnip Tour, Law Enforcement Meeting

JEFFERSON CITY – It's been a busy week in northeast Missouri as the fall harvest continues, families got their children ready to trick or treat, and another exciting high school football season winds to a close.

I started the week off by bringing the Senate Interim Committee on the Funding for County Sheriff Offices to Shelby County to meet with local law enforcement officials. I appreciate Committee Chairman Sen. John Griesheimer driving up to Shelbyville from Washington to tour the local facilities and talk to local law enforcement officials about the challenges we face in rural Missouri. I've mentioned before that sheriffs' deputies in 91 of Missouri's 114 counties qualify for public assistance. We heard that many deputies work a second or even a third job just to make ends meet.

Another challenge for sheriffs' departments in counties bordering Iowa and Illinois is that they spend a lot of time training new deputies, only to see those deputies leave for greener pastures. The Shelby County tour gave our committee some things to think about and some possible solutions to the problem of low pay for deputies. For example, we might recommend increasing the fees collected for process servers. We may not be able to fix everything, but we at least need to bring the bottom up to the middle as far as deputy salaries are concerned.

I've also been delivering turnips to senior centers in the 18th Senatorial District this week, the second year in a row we've been able to share our bountiful harvest with our neighbors. The "turnip tour" gives me a chance to get out into the district and talk to folks, and many of our older citizens have fond memories of eating turnips when they were younger.

Plus, I just think it's neighborly to share the harvest. You know, in rural Missouri when someone new moves in to the area folks tend to give them some produce from their gardens just to show they're good neighbors, and my annual turnip tour is along the same lines. By the way, I've got a lot of good turnip recipes if anyone is interested in them.

If you have any questions or comments about this or any other issue, give my Capitol office a call at (573) 751-7852, send me an email at wes.shoemyer@senate.mo.gov, or drop a line to Room 434, State Capitol, 201 West Capitol Ave., Jefferson City, MO 65101.