



## MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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**A Weekly Column for the  
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# Odds & Ends

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JEFFERSON CITY – Last week Missouri lawmakers returned to the Capitol for the annual Veto Session, which is a constitutionally required gathering that is typically a formality since vetoes are rarely overridden. One attempt was made to override one of the few vetoes the governor issued this year, but supporters were unable to gather the two-thirds vote needed for an override.

Since we have to be in Jefferson City for the Veto Session, we always hold a ceremony for retiring or retired Senators that same day. This year we said goodbye to seven Senators, including the two Senate leaders, President Pro Tem Michael R. Gibbons and Minority Floor Leader Maida Coleman. The majority and minority caucuses will choose new leaders for the 2009 legislative session following the November elections.

As I mentioned last week, I serve on the Joint Committee on Pre-need Funeral Contracts, which is conducting a study of the consumer and economic impacts of the pre-need funeral contract industry in Missouri. The committee will then determine whether or not any changes in state law are needed. Our committee held a lengthy hearing at the Capitol last week in an effort to make sure Missouri consumers do not face unnecessary financial difficulties or contract disputes with regard to funerals.

Last week the governor announced the president had approved his request to extend the timeframe for Missourians to file claims related to this summer's severe weather and flooding. The extension now includes weather events that occurred through August 13 of this year. The governor also is requesting **Individual Assistance** for Adair, Macon, Monroe and Putnam counties in the 18<sup>th</sup> District. Individual Assistance helps citizens and businesses begin the

recovery process. Additionally, people living in Clark, Marion, Pike and Ralls counties in northeast Missouri can still register for FEMA assistance if they haven't already done so by calling 1-800-621-FEMA.

The governor says he also is requesting **Public Assistance** for people in Adair, Knox, Monroe, Putnam, Schuyler and Scotland counties affected by this summer's severe weather. Public Assistance reimburses local governments for cleaning up storm and flood debris, repairing public infrastructure like roads and bridges, as well as any emergency protective measures local governments may have used during the crisis.

Finally, I was pleased to hear the state Department of Economic Development has approved \$884,091 in Downtown Preservation financing over a 25-year period to renovate Samuel Clemens Field in Hannibal. Once the renovations are completed in 2009, Samuel Clemens Field will be home to the Hannibal Cavemen baseball team, who are part of the Central Illinois Collegiate League.

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](mailto:wes.shoemyer@senate.mo.gov), or drop a line to Room 434, State Capitol, 201 West Capitol Ave., Jefferson City, MO 65101.