

Room 423 - State Capitol Bldg. - Jefferson City, MO 65101 - Contact Barbara Mustoe Phone: (573) 751-2306

Week of February 23, 2009

Welcoming You to the State Capitol

I am always pleased to welcome guests to the Capitol, and I appreciate every constituent who makes the trip from Southwest Missouri to come by the office. This week, we welcomed many guests to Jefferson City.

Jim Murray, former detective and police chief for the Diamond Police Department, visited the Capitol with his family, and was recognized in the House of Representatives as an Outstanding Missourian. I had the honor of introducing him on the Senate floor. He has made great strides as a cyber-policeman, tracking down sexual offenders hoping to prey on children using the internet. After he retired from the force in 2002, Jim developed a protocol of investigation that has led to the arrest of 23 sexual offenders resulting in 18 convictions. He continues to train others on the techniques necessary to catch these criminals and keep them from continuing to hurt some of our most vulnerable citizens.

I was pleased to spend the day with Breann Ferguson, a job shadow from Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA). This organization has nearly 14,000 student members who are focused on becoming better leaders for Missouri's future. The "Legislative Job Shadowing Project" allows students to be exposed to and gain personal experience with the legislative process. Breann, a junior from Seneca High School, spent time in my Capitol office observing my daily activities and joining me for meetings with other constituents.

We also welcomed several other groups this week. Some of these visitors from the district included representatives who attended Missouri Grocer's Day at the Capitol, Missouri Southern State University nursing students, Parents as Teachers representatives, members of the Missouri Athletic Trainers Association, and Joplin Area Home Care Providers.

I encourage you to come to the Capitol to share your comments, concerns, and questions with me. 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 during session 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) 751-2306. My office is happy to help you schedule a tour or assist you in any way so we can to make the most of your visit.

Senator Gary Nodler represents the people of Newton, Jasper and Dade counties in the Missouri Senate.