

Journal of the House

THIRTY-SEVENTH DAY

HALL OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
TOPEKA, KS, Monday, March 9, 2015, 11:00 a.m.

The House met pursuant to adjournment with Speaker Merrick in the chair.

The roll was called with 118 members present.

Rep. Lane was excused on verified illness.

Reps. Edmonds, Kelley, Ruiz, Sawyer and Schwab were excused on excused absence by the Speaker.

Prayer by the Rev. Michael John Schmidt, pastor, First Lutheran Church, Plainville, and guest of Rep. Couture-Lovelady:

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit! AMEN

Almighty God, from You comes all rule and authority over the nations of the world for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do well. Graciously regard these your servants of the Kansas House of Representatives, who make, administer, and judge the laws of this state. Grant that all who receive the sword as Your servants may bear it according to Your command. Lead them to protect life from conception to natural death. Guide them to make decisions that will benefit all citizens of this state. And in all matters of deliberation, give them open ears and understanding hearts.

Enlighten and defend these your servants and grant them wisdom and understanding that under their peaceable governance Your people may be guarded and directed in righteousness, quietness, and unity. Protect and prolong their lives that we with them may show forth the praise of Your name.

We also pray that you would grant the citizens of this state wisdom and patience, that we may honor those whom You have set over us as your servants, praying that in all things Your will would be done; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Rep. Finch.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

There being no objection, the following remarks of Rep. Schwartz are spread upon the Journal:

Today, I would like to recognize two people who have given more than a combined 40 years of their lives to the service of Kansas agriculture and the farmers and ranchers of the state of Kansas – Dee Likes for his 30 years of service as CEO of the Kansas Livestock Association and Steve Baccus for his 12 years of service as President of the Kansas Farm Bureau.

Dee Likes has served the Kansas Livestock Association since 1976 and became CEO in 1984. Key state legislative victories under Dee's leadership include:

- Adoption of use-value appraisal for calculating property taxes on agricultural land;
- Exemption of farm machinery, replacement parts and labor from sales tax; and
- Removal of farm machinery and livestock from the property tax rolls.

At the national level, Dee played a part in helping create the national \$1.00-per-head beef check-off in 1985 and worked behind the scenes during the 1996 merger between the National Cattlemen's Association and the Beef Industry Council of the National Live Stock and Meat Board. The merger was the beginning of NCBA, an organization that has helped unify the beef industry and move it forward. The state of Kansas has benefited from Dee's passion, commitment and leadership.

Steve Baccus has been president of Kansas Farm Bureau for 12 years; served on the Kansas Farm Bureau of directors for 17 years; currently serves on the board of directors for the American Farm Bureau board of directors; and is Chairman of the Farm Bureau Mutual company board.

One of his great accomplishments was the work done to achieve a workable and effective crop insurance program for Kansas farmers. The crop insurance program has been key to providing a safety net for family farms, especially in light of the recent droughts that plagued much of the state.

Steve revived a focus on consumer education to offer credible – farmer based – perspectives on where food comes from. (It's interesting to note that years ago, much younger Steve Baccus was featured on "A Day on A Farm in Kansas" – the original episode was produced on Baccus Farms, featuring Steve talking about what farmers do to educate others about how their food is produced.)

In addition, Steve brought Kansas' diverse commodity and Ag organizations together to coordinate resources and efforts on consumer promotion and education through the Kansas Farm Food Connection.

Please assist me in thanking these two Kansans for their work in promoting Agriculture in Kansas.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

There being no objection, the following remarks of Rep. Doll are spread upon the Journal:

Dianna Deniston of Garden City, USD #457, was named the 2015 Janet Sims Teacher of the Year by the Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom. She was presented this award at the Bookmark Art and Teacher of the Year Celebration this morning.

Dianna is the Instructional Math coach at Victor Ornelas Elementary School. She won this award for integrating agriculture into the elementary school in an idea that eventually became "Ag Math Harvest Day." She invited local farmers and ag-business owners to come to their school and provide the kids with a "Day on the Farm." There were presentations ranging from farm equipment to animal husbandry and each presentation incorporated math, giving the kids a chance to apply their mathematical knowledge to everyday farm life.

In attendance today with Dianna are members of her family, Challie Metzger, Dylan Metzger, McKenzie Metzger, Drew Metzger and Drake Metzger.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM STATE OFFICERS

From Randy Peterson, Chair, and Michael Randol, Director of DHCF, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Division of Health Care Finance, 2015 Report from the Health Care Access Improvement Panel.

The complete report is kept on file and open for inspection in the office of the Chief Clerk.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Education Budget Committee recommends **HB 2394** be amended on page 1, in line 20, by striking "\$250 plus the cost of"; by striking all in line 21; in line 22, by striking "assessment" and inserting "\$1,000"; in line 23, after the first period by inserting "If the amount of moneys to be awarded to such school districts exceeds the amount of moneys appropriated to the career technical education incentive program, the board of regents shall prorate the available moneys."; in line 24, by striking all after the period; in line 25, by striking all before "Such"; and the bill be passed as amended.

Committee on **Federal and State Affairs** recommends **HB 2007** be amended by substituting a new bill to be designated as "Substitute for HOUSE BILL NO. 2007," as follows:

"Substitute for HOUSE BILL NO. 2007

By Committee on Federal and State Affairs

"AN ACT concerning law enforcement; creating a law enforcement mutual aid region for critical incidents."; and the substitute bill be passed.

(**Sub HB 2007** was thereupon introduced and read by title.)

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT CHANGES

Speaker Merrick announced the appointment of Rep. Curtis to replace Rep. Ruiz on Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development on Monday, March 9.

Also, the appointment of Rep. Wolfe Moore to replace Rep. Sawyer on Committee on Elections on Monday, March 9.

Also, the appointment of Rep. Lusk to replace Rep. Sawyer on Committee on Taxation on Monday, March 9.

On motion of Rep. Vickrey, the House adjourned until 11:00 a.m., Tuesday, March 10, 2015.

CHARLENE SWANSON, *Journal Clerk.*

SUSAN W. KANNARR, *Chief Clerk.*

