



Capitol Network News

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JOHNSON BIDS FAREWELL TO STAFF, HOUSE

By Shawn Ashley
Staff Writer

■(GIT) Outgoing Speaker of the House of Representatives Glen Johnson took the House floor one last time Thursday to bid his final farewell to members of the legislative staff.



Glen Johnson
Outgoing Speaker

A bipartisan group of approximately 80 staffers, including Johnson's own office staff, secretaries, House researchers and others, gathered in the House chamber for what Johnson described as his final thank you to those with whom he had worked since entering the House of Representatives 14 years ago. Greeted by a standing ovation, Johnson said, "I wish you all had been voters in the Second District on Nov. 5," referring to his unsuccessful effort to unseat Republican incumbent Congressman Tom Coburn.

The outgoing speaker opened his remarks with a story about the day in 1982 when he came to the House for the start of the legislative session. First, he said, then-Rep. Kelly Haney, D-Seminole, claimed the larger desk

in the office the two men shared by explaining that House rules dictated that the member with the most seniority received the better facilities.

"I don't think he ever showed me that rule," Johnson joked.

He then related how Sen. Gene Stipe, D-McAlester, visited his office following Gov. George Nigh's state of the state address. According to Johnson, Stipe said he had followed his campaign closely and praised him for the race he had run, saying that he was looking forward to working with the then-freshman lawmaker. As Stipe left, Johnson said, he said, "We country lawyers have to stick together."

Johnson admitted being impressed by the visit and said that he shared that feeling with Haney, who had sat quietly at his desk reading during the visit. Haney then told Johnson of an identical visit when he first entered the legislature. According to Johnson, Haney said the meeting concluded with Stipe say-

ing, "We Indians have to stick together."

Johnson said of his impending departure, "It was a privilege and a pleasure to work with most of you."

Speaking on behalf of himself and other representatives, Johnson said the dedication and sacrifices of those who work behind the scenes in the House were appreciated.

"I hope you all have a sincere appreciation for the fact that what you do here impacts on people's lives," said Johnson.

On behalf of many of the staffers present, chief clerk Larry Warden presented Johnson with a series of gifts, including a wagon, an umbrella and a statue of a golfer leaning against a club. Warden said the wagon would remind Johnson of the House's delivery system, that the umbrella would serve to remind the outgoing speaker of his discussions concerning the Rainy Day fund that the statue represented the staff's hopes that Johnson would "always have great fairways and greens."

VOSKUHL, MORGAN 'WIN' LEGISLATIVE SEATS

By Shawn Ashley
Staff Writer

■(GIT) More than a week after the votes were originally counted, residents of state House District 41 and state Senate District 21 have duly elected legislators.

In a decision reached late Wednesday and a recount completed Thursday, incumbent Sean Voskuhl, D-Marshall, was declared the winner in the House District 21. Voskuhl's apparent 11-vote victory last week was challenged by his Republican opponent, Curt Roggow, of Enid.

Roggow demanded a recount of the ballots cast in the three counties in the district and also alleged irregularities in some of the votes cast for Voskuhl. In the recount, which was completed Thursday, Voskuhl gained seven additional votes, State Election Board Secretary Lance Ward said, while Roggow neither gained nor lost any, giving the incumbent an 18-vote advantage over his op-

ponent. In a ruling issued Wednesday, the allegations of voter irregularities were dismissed, Ward said.

The conclusions mean Voskuhl remains the unofficial winner until Monday when the State Election Board will vote to certify the results.

Also on Thursday, a judge dismissed the allegations of Stillwater Republican Randy Wedel concerning some voting irregularities in his race against Stillwater Democrat Mike Morgan in the Senate District 21 race. Morgan notched a 32-vote victory over Wedel in the general election, but like Roggow, Wedel alleged some of those who voted for his opponent were either registered in other counties or not registered at all. A Lincoln County judge, Ward said, dismissed the allegations related to those voters who may have been twice-registered and recognized that 11 Payne County voters appeared to

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