

10/16/2006 This Week in Congress

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October 16, 2006

Dear Friend,

Welcome to "This Week in Congress." As Congress is out of session this month, I am spending time in communities across the state visiting with Kansans.

Honoring Krause Corporation of Hutchinson for Export Achievement

This week, I toured the Krause Corporation in Hutchinson and presented company officials with the U.S. Commerce Department's Export Achievement Certificate. Krause Corporation, in business for 90 years, employs more than 150 workers and manufactures farm tillage equipment. In May, Krause Corporation completed its first export sale into Russia. The award recognizes U.S. companies that have benefited from the Commerce Department's Commercial Service Export Assistance program, which helps companies make their first export sale or open new foreign markets.

Krause representatives recognized at the event were Steve Krause, Chairman; Richard Brown, President and Chief Operating Officer; and Keith Whitaker, Vice President of Sales and Marketing. Also attending the event were A.J. Anderson, Manager of the U.S. Department of Commerce Export Assistance Center in Wichita, and Greg Call, Kansas

Department of Commerce International Trade Representative. I congratulate Krause on their outstanding export accomplishments. For full text of the press release, [click here](#).

Visiting Kansas Schools

Colby: This week, I visited Colby Community College to meet with the new President, Dr. Lynn Kreider.

Pretty Prairie: I visited Mr. Jon Johnson's senior government class at Pretty Prairie High School. I enjoyed visiting with the students about current issues. Thank you to Principal Randy Hendrickson for the opportunity to visit the school.

Salina: On Thursday, I attended the closing ceremony of the 3rd annual Meadowlark Marathon at Meadowlark Grade School in Salina. The students completed the traditional marathon length by running one mile every morning before school for one month. Many parents and family members joined the students in their daily runs. Thank you to Principal Deena Hilbig, as well as Dana Kossow and the group of parents who organized this fitness event. Congratulations to all the students that set and completed their marathon goal.

Visiting Kansas Health Care Facilities

Atwood: This week, I visited the Rawlins County Health Center in Atwood and met with CEO Bob Garrison. I enjoyed talking with staff and touring the facility.

Oberlin: I also stopped at the Decatur County Hospital and nursing home in Oberlin where I met with CEO Lynn Doeden for a tour of the facility.

Hutchinson: In Hutchinson, I toured PrairieStar Health Center. PrairieStar provides a full range of services, including health and wellness programs, and prescription drug assistance for individuals who are unable to obtain services elsewhere. Thank you to Sally Tesluk, CEO and Executive Director, for the tour of the facility. While there, the Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved (KAMU) presented me and Kansas Representative Bob Bethell with the 2006 Distinguished Community Health Champion award. Thank you to Karla Finnell, KAMU Executive Director, for presenting this award. PrairieStar and KAMU play an important role in supporting health centers and increasing access to health care for uninsured and underserved Kansans.

McPherson: On Wednesday, I visited The Cedars Retirement Community in McPherson. I attended the groundbreaking of the Cedar House last year and returned this week to tour the new developments. The Cedars has independent living, assisted living, skilled nursing services and now four group homes. These four buildings will house 14 residents each and will focus on person-centered care. Thank you to Debra Harmon Zehr for the invitation to visit and to CEO Shari McCabe for showing me around.

Lindsborg: I also stopped in Lindsborg this week to meet with Bob Nyquist, pharmacist from Apotek Pharmacy, and visit the Lindsborg Rural Health Care Clinic and the Lindsborg Community Hospital. I appreciate the time Administrator Greg Lundstrum took to show me the facilities and visit with me about challenges this critical access hospital faces.

Visiting Kansas Communities

Inman: I visited the community of Inman this week to visit with area residents. Thank you to Keith Anderson for showing me around. In addition to a driving tour of Inman to view recent community developments, we made stops at the library, Farmers National Bank, Jim's Appliances and Jerry's Cafe.

Yoder: I visited the Law Enforcement Training Center this week near Yoder where I met with Administrator Ed Pavey.

Hutchinson: This week, I spoke to the Hutchinson Noon Lions club at the Grand Prairie Convention Center. On Friday, I attended the NAACP State Congress at the Stringer Fine Arts Center on the Hutchinson Community College campus. Thank you to Darrel Pope for the opportunity to visit with the group.

Ellsworth: I visited the Saint Francis Academy campus in Ellsworth this week. St. Francis was founded in 1945 by a western Kansas Episcopal minister, Robert H. Mize Jr., and serves children, youths and families who have been affected by abuse, neglect, chemical dependencies, gang affiliations, conduct disorders and other problems. The programs of care range from prevention and intervention programs to residential facilities. I enjoyed learning more about the academy and appreciated meeting with Reverend Edward Fellhauer, President, CEO and Dean; Kerstin Lang, Executive Director of the Ellsworth Campus; and Sharon Ringler, Vice President of Public Relations, Marketing and Development.

Salina: On Saturday morning, I attended a pancake breakfast at the Harvest in the Fall Show at the Yesteryear Museum in Salina. The weekend's events highlighted past farming practices and included displays of antique farm equipment.

Glasco: I also stopped in Glasco on Saturday morning to visit the local cafe, drug store and post office.

Jewell: This weekend, I participated in the Corn Show in Jewell. For more than 50 years, area residents have been hosting this three day celebration. Thanks to Dick Willmeth for coordinating my ride in the parade.

Hays: On Sunday, I attended the annual Parent-Teacher-Friends (PTF) soup supper at Thomas More Prep-Marian in Hays. Proceeds from the soup supper support PTF projects. Recent PTF projects include the purchase of stage curtains as part of the auditorium renovation and scholarships for two graduating seniors.

In the Office

Representatives from Junction City and Manhattan were in the office this week in conjunction with the Association of the United States Army's (AUSA) annual meeting. The Fort Riley AUSA chapter is celebrating its 50th anniversary of supporting soldiers and families at Fort Riley. Leaders from both communities stopped by to discuss opportunities and challenges to putting in place infrastructure and services as they continue to experience tremendous growth with the return of the First Infantry Division to Kansas. The group also discussed the recent announcement that Junction City will be the home of Ventria Biosciences, a multimillion dollar bioprocessing operation, and the potential for more bioscience industries to locate in the area. In with the group from Junction City were Terry Heldstab, Rod Barnes, Mike Guinn, Leon Osbourn, Mike Rhodes, Ken Talley, Susan Guinn, Carolyn Gaston and Sam Robinson. Representatives from Manhattan included Ron Fehr, Tom Phillips, Ed Klimek and Mike Shilling.

John Allen Smith, formerly of Colby, and Emory Rogers, formerly of Lenexa, were in with the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists to talk about the need for caregiver assistance in selecting a drug plan for residents of long term care facilities and the need for Medicare to cover drugs that treat anxiety and seizures.

In for a tour of the United States Capitol this week were Andrew and Melanie Lund, originally from Salina; Sherrie Roach of Alton and her fiancée, Werrie Paugh of Florida; and Ginny Young of Colorado.

Very truly yours,

Jerry