

Senate, and I am not prepared to accept the abdication of these traditions for the purpose of political expediency for the majority party.

In the 110th Congress, the majority leader used this tactic to block Republican amendments on 16 different occasions. Important legislation such as FAA reauthorization, climate change legislation, an energy speculation legislation and energy speculation legislation were all derailed because the majority leader's decision to deviate from regular order and deny minority participation in the debate.

Mr. President, as my colleagues have mentioned, it has been over 120 days since a Republican amendment has received consideration on the floor. It is my hope that the Senate will return to fair procedures for debate, which have well served this proud institution since its inception.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 22 AND S. 181

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 12 noon tomorrow, Thursday, January 15, all postcloture time be considered yielded back except for 10 minutes to be equally divided and controlled between Senators BINGAMAN and COBURN or their designees; that upon the use or yielding back of that time, the pending amendments be withdrawn, that the managers' amendments which have been cleared by the leaders and managers be in order, and that if cleared, the amendments be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be read a third time and the Senate proceed to vote on passage of the bill; that upon passage, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table; and the Senate then vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 181.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we are trying to work out a time agreement as to how much debate is necessary on the consideration of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act.

We understand statutorily there is 10 hours. We will finish this tomorrow. We will have a vote on this tomorrow. If the people want to use all the 10 hours, we will vote when the 10 hours is up.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### TRIBUTE TO TOM WATSON

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a well-respected Kentuckian, Mr. Tom Watson. Throughout his life, Mr. Watson has contributed immensely to Owensboro and to the Commonwealth.

Recently the Messenger-Inquirer in Owensboro, KY., published a story about Tom and his work as mayor of Owensboro. Throughout his career as a public servant, Tom has worked hard to give back to the community that he loves so dearly. I have worked closely with Tom over my career and have seen firsthand his dedication to the people of Owensboro.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mayor Watson and wish him the very best as he embarks on new challenges. I further ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer, Dec. 19, 2008]

#### WATSON BIDS FAREWELL

(By Owen Covington)

Owensboro Mayor Tom Watson closed out his term Thursday night in the lobby of the RiverPark Center, just yards away from where work has begun on a \$37 million river walk for which he helped secure funding.

The farewell reception attended by dozens of friends, families and colleagues was just two blocks away from The Commerce Center, a "one-stop-shop" for business and economic development that became a reality at Watson's urging.

"I, for one, look forward to what he'll do next," City Commissioner David Johnson told the crowd. "Everything he does is special, and he does it well and he does it with a passion."

This week, Watson talked with the Messenger-Inquirer about his four years in office and said he had no regrets about his decision to leave city government.

"I'm just happy I had a chance to serve, and I'm humbled that I made it through four years," Watson said.

#### UNIFIED GOVERNMENT

Watson jumped in the mayoral race in 2004 as a former chairman of the Greater Owensboro Chamber of Commerce who had built a successful prosthetics and orthotics business with offices in Owensboro and Evansville.

Central to Watson's campaign was a drive for unified government, a push to bring city and county government under one entity to "speak with one voice."

That push took Watson to Frankfort in 2006 when he helped lobby support for a bill that would put cities and county on a more even footing as they looked at unified government.

That bill became law, and Watson and the commission adopted an ordinance in early

2007 to create a commission to study merger, but inaction by Daviess Fiscal Court meant Watson's merger push went no further.

"I feel good we tried, but it didn't work out," Watson said. "It was something you've got to try to do."

Greater Owensboro Chamber of Commerce President Jody Wassmer said Watson's election in 2004 is evidence that the issue is one that will not go away.

"I think we've been able to move some things to the forefront that will pay off in future administrations," Wassmer said. "I think Tom will probably be known as the man that brought government merger back to the forefront."

At Thursday night's reception, Watson was made an honorary judge-executive by Daviess County Judge-Executive Reid Haire, with Haire noting with a smile that the title was probably something the mayor had "lusted for" in the past.

"We have worked well together," Haire told Watson.

#### STATE, FEDERAL ATTENTION

As mayor, Watson was able to use his connections with state and federal elected officials to help bring the community notice when in the past it had been overlooked.

"I think one of his greatest strengths was the relationships that he developed with state and federal officials, and those efforts brought Owensboro an unprecedented amount of state and federal funding," said former City Manager Bob Whitmer, who served for three of Watson's four years.

U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell said during a phone interview Thursday that Watson is responsible for making him realize how important riverfront development was to the community.

"He had a lot to do in getting me even more interested and enthusiastic about the future of the Owensboro riverfront," McConnell said. "Tom deserves a lot of credit for pushing that project, believing it was important and believing it would transform the city."

#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Just months after taking office, Watson along with Haire unveiled a "white paper" that presented a plan with a broader look at economic development efforts and resulted in a more coordinated effort by the community.

The paper also led to the creation of the separate Greater Owensboro Economic Development Corp. and The Commerce Center, which is now home to EDC, the chamber, the office of Downtown Development Director Fred Reeves and the Owensboro Metropolitan Planning Commission.

"I certainly think he and the judge presented and articulated a vision about how they wanted economic development to be a little more streamlined," said Nick Brake, EDC president and CEO. "He had some real strong ideas about doing some things much differently than what we've done in the past."

Thursday night, EDC board chairman Darrell Higginbotham presented Watson with a framed copy of the cover of the "white paper" and said a duplicate will be hung in the EDC's offices.

"Your vision for The Commerce Center is a reality today," Higginbotham told the mayor.

#### "MAN OF GREAT ENERGY"

Commissioner Al Mattingly Jr. noted Thursday night that he got to know Watson as the two squared off in the mayoral election in 2004 and has seen the sacrifices that Watson has made as mayor.

"I know of no other man in the city of Owensboro that is as compassionate, is as

caring or has as much empathy for others as Tom Watson," Mattingly said. "I think those are real traits in a leader."

Watson's term wasn't without its controversies, and his effort to seek state approval and funding for a joint partnership between the city and development firm Gulfstream Enterprises Inc. opened up a rift in the community.

The city was hoping its partnership with Gulfstream for the proposed Gateway Commons development on Kentucky 54 would allow it to receive millions of dollars in tax increment financing.

Some viewed the push as an abandonment of efforts to develop downtown, while others saw the project as the only way to get state funding for a new mixed-use events center.

The proposal prompted a lawsuit against the city and failed to pass muster with the state, but it was followed by the community backing the creation of a downtown master plan.

"You always knew where he stood," said City Manager Bill Parrish. "I've seen him as a man of great energy where you know where he comes from and he wants to get things moving. He is a man of unbounded enthusiasm."

Though not able to attend Thursday night, Commissioner Cathy Armour sent her thoughts about the mayor in a letter read by Mattingly, and wished him luck and now more time to enjoy his grandchildren.

Commissioner Candance Castlen Brake announced Thursday night that the city staff and the commission would be making a donation in Watson's name to the Daniel Pitino Shelter, an organization that he has personally supported in the past and urged the city to commit money to.

Watson counts the proclamations he has announced and the recognitions he has handed out as some of his fondest moments, which also include visits to classrooms to talk about city government and work to help open the Department of Veterans Affairs clinic in the city.

"Really it hasn't been a job," Watson said Thursday night. "It's been another opportunity in my life to participate in my community."

When asked if he had any second thoughts about not seeking a second term, Watson explained that he is a "front windshield" kind of man.

"I don't like to look out the rearview mirror too much," Watson said. "But you still have that piece of you that wants to see things completed that you started. . . . It's almost like a blur, really, it went by so fast."

#### TRIBUTE TO DAVID STEVENS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a well-respected Kentuckian, Mr. David Stevens. Mr. Stevens's outstanding dedication to public service is truly immeasurable, as is his devotion to our Commonwealth.

Recently the Lexington Herald-Leader in Lexington, KY, published a story about Mr. Stevens. The story highlights not only the major initiatives he took as a Lexington-Fayette urban county councilman, but the keen sense of humor that contributed to his significant presence in Kentucky. Mr. Stevens's noteworthy pursuit as a public servant is a true testament of his devotion to not only Kentucky, but his loyalty to our great Nation.

Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. David Stevens

as a true patriot and Kentuckian whose dedication to his city will be long remembered. I further ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Lexington Herald-Leader, Dec. 15, 2008]

#### MODEST STEVENS' IMPACT SEEN IN SMOKING BAN, SUNDAY DRINKING

(By Michelle Ku)

David Stevens isn't exactly a household name in Lexington, but the modest man's work has had a huge impact on the city.

Thanks largely to Stevens, Lexingtonians can drink a little longer on Sundays but can't light up a cigarette inside a workplace.

Stevens, 79, leaves the Urban County Council this month after 15 years.

He has served three terms as an at-large councilman and one term as the District 5 representative. He chose not to seek re-election for his district seat.

He has been involved in many of the major initiatives in Lexington over the last 15 years.

Stevens pushed to extend the hours of Sunday alcohol sales and expanded who was eligible to sell. He helped develop the city's farmland preservation program, the Town & Gown Commission and ethics code.

But what he will be most remembered for is the passage and implementation of Kentucky's first smoke-free law. Since Lexington's was passed in 2003, 20 other Kentucky communities have enacted some type of a smoke-free law or regulation.

Stevens is probably the most significant Lexington figure, said former Vice Mayor Mike Scanlon.

"If you look at any councilman who has ever served, or any mayor who's ever served, I don't think that there's anybody who's going to leave a bigger footprint on Lexington than David Stevens."

Stevens' departure will leave very large shoes to fill because of his institutional knowledge of Lexington dating back to the writing of the city-county charter, Scanlon said. "The council changes all the damn time, but the government is going to be changing because David's leaving."

Last month, the council approved the first revision to Lexington's smoking ban.

Stevens engineered the revision, which extended the ban to all workplaces, not just those open to the public, and closed a loophole that had allowed smoking in bingo halls.

"Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights calls Lexington's law the shot heard round the world," said Ellen Hahn, director of the Kentucky Center for Smoke-Free Policy. "It was so landmark because this region, including the other tobacco states, really lagged behind the rest of the country."

Many people think the smoking ban was his biggest accomplishment while on council, Stevens said. While it certainly got the most attention, "the other things are of equal importance."

The parks master plan he worked on with former Councilwoman Sandy Shafer was important even though the city has never been able to give parks enough funding, Stevens said.

Much of his work on council was done with a vision for Lexington that's 50 years out, said Councilwoman Linda Gorton. "That was obvious when he helped write the charter and helped with merger. It will take that long for much of his beautification efforts on the city's corridors to grow."

In addition to the legislation he sponsored, Stevens will be remembered for his dry wit. He has a penchant for delivering a well-timed one-liner.

For example, during Stevens' final budget and finance committee meeting last Tuesday, the council discussed the city's projected budget shortfall in the next fiscal year.

"I will be happy to forgo any salary for next year," Stevens said to a round of chuckles.

Stevens plans to remain active in the community and city government despite his retirement from the council.

He wants to continue his work on the corridors committee, including a project to add sidewalks to Tates Creek Road from Lakewood Drive to New Circle Road. Neighbors are opposed to the idea.

"I'm determined to get those sidewalks down Tates Creek," he said.

Also, he wants to complete a project he began several years ago to document discussions that took place on the commission that drafted the city's charter. He had the audio tapes from those meetings transcribed, but still has to review the tapes to identify the speakers, he said.

Outside of city government, Stevens will continue on as the president of the Blue Grass Council of the Boy Scouts of America and board chairman of the Kentucky Blood Center. He also wants to finish fund-raising for a children's garden at the Arboretum on Alumni Drive.

His one regret while on the council was not pushing as hard as he could have for a dedicated tax for the parks department. When parks explored the idea six years ago, Stevens was running for his third term as an at-large councilman.

"I thought if I spent all my time working on the parks referendum, I might not get re-elected," Stevens said. "I feel kind of bad about that. I let the people in the parks down."

Being on the council is a lot like playing a game of golf, Stevens said.

"When you play a game of golf, you're only going to hit three or four perfect shots out of the 70 in every round," he said. "It's the same on the council, you know, you're not going to hit every one just right."

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

#### REMEMBERING DR. SHUKRI KHURI

● Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I welcome this opportunity to pay tribute to the life of Dr. Shukri F. Khuri who, until he passed away last September 26 from a brain tumor, was one of Massachusetts' foremost physicians and a true public servant, contributing especially to the health care of our veterans.

Dr. Khuri was born in Jerusalem in 1943, and fled with his parents in 1948 to Syria, later settling in Lebanon. He graduated from American University of Beirut, where he met his wife Randa, and also completed medical school at the university. He then completed his surgical training at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore and the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN.

Dr. Khuri was remembered for the extraordinary way he answered the call to public service. He refused lucrative offers to join private surgical practices, and chose instead to combine his