

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

passion for research with his commitment to patient care. He joined the Surgical Service of the Veteran's Affairs Boston Healthcare System in 1976, where he spent the rest of his career. He rose to become Chief of Surgery at the West Roxbury VA Medical Center in 1984, Vice Chairman of the Department of Surgery at Brigham and Women's Hospital in 1992, and Professor of Surgery at Harvard Medical School in 1987.

Early in his tenure at the VA, Dr. Khuri realized the need for a methodology to assist surgeons in managing the health of the heart during cardiothoracic surgery. In his quest to identify a metabolic indicator of intraoperative myocardial ischemia, Dr. Khuri invented and patented a probe that would measure the pH of the heart muscle, a device currently in the final stages of research and development.

In addition to his work in surgical heart protection, Dr. Khuri was deeply interested in improving the quality of care for all surgical patients. In 1978, at West Roxbury VA Medical Center, he established the first automated data management system in a surgical intensive care unit in the Northeast. Today, the electronic patient record in the VA is by far the most advanced and comprehensive electronic medical records system in the world.

Dr. Khuri also led a unique national effort within the VA which established the National Surgical Quality Improvement Program in 1994. The program is now recognized by the surgical community as the standard for the comparative assessment of quality of surgical care and for continuous improvement in surgery. This program has now become the model for a joint effort between the VA and the American College of Surgeons to incorporate data in the private sector to see that all patients receive the best care possible.

In the course of his outstanding career, Dr. Khuri achieved national and international prominence. His research laboratory at West Roxbury has been continuously funded for 24 years and has trained more than 60 residents and postgraduate students in applied research. He was a member of numerous professional organizations, including the prestigious American Surgical Association, and he served on and chaired many regional and national committees, including a 3-year term as president of the Massachusetts Affiliate of the American Heart Association.

Dr. Khuri was the author of more than 200 peer-reviewed publications. He was also a regular reviewer for more than ten scientific journals, and served on the editorial board of the *Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery*. He was the recipient of many prestigious awards, including the 1998 Frank Brown Berry Prize, which honors an outstanding physician in the federal health care system each year. Just days after his death, Dr. Khuri was named the recipient of the 2008 Ernest Amory Codman Award for im-

provements in the safety of care to the public.

As a Palestinian American, he felt the pain of the conflict in the Middle East firsthand, and he devoted much of his life to seeking peace in the region. He worked with groups in the Boston area to create and sustain dialogue between Israelis, Palestinians, and Jewish and Arab Americans.

Dr. Khuri embodied the American story of hope, opportunity and service. He built a remarkably successful professional life as a public servant, and he also built a beautiful and loving home. His hobbies ranged from carpentry to photography to actively serving in his church. His love of life, his profound humility, his steadfast faith, and his eternally optimistic outlook will continue to inspire all those whose lives he touched. He is deeply missed by his wife and three children, his four grandchildren, his mother and brother, his many loving family members, his friends and patients, and the community he loved to serve and served so well. •

TRIBUTE TO RICH ARENBERG

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, as the Nation celebrates a new beginning by welcoming a new administration to town next week, my office will be saying goodbye to a longtime trusted adviser and friend. Today, I pay tribute to my legislative director, Rich Arenberg, who will retire from Congress after 34 years to take a teaching position at Brown University.

In the nearly 15 years that Rich has led the legislative team in my office, he has provided invaluable guidance on innumerable issues that have arisen. No doubt, he has a detailed record—likely in chart form—of the legislative back-and-forth behind each bill, if not each vote, we have confronted together. And when Rich announced his retirement to the legislative staff last month, the number of long faces around the table spoke volumes about his skills.

Rich has an encyclopedic knowledge of Senate history, procedure, and protocol. He has been a mentor to countless Hill staffers, as well as a thoughtful, reasonable, skilled adviser to the Members he has served. He is a gifted storyteller who enlightens and entertains my office with anecdotes of his decades on the Hill. And above all, he is an incredibly decent human being, devoted to his work, loyal to the people around him, with a passion for life.

Rich takes a distinct interest not only in understanding the policy implications of the bills that came before the Senate but also in appreciating the subtleties of each vote the significance of procedural votes and the connotations of each Senator's stance. Rich revels in the obscure though sometimes critical anomaly: for example, he often tracked which Senators reversed their positions between or during votes.

With his competence, focus, and passion, Rich has endeared himself to

those who had the pleasure of working with or near him. Beyond his personal qualities, he has distinguished himself with a remarkable record of legislative contributions. Rich and I arrived in the Senate at the same time following the election of 1978. As a staffer for Senator Paul Tsongas, whom he had previously worked for in the House of Representatives, Rich was initiated in the Senate in a pursuit that also dominated my first year: securing loan guarantees for Chrysler that helped save the company and had an enormous positive impact on the vibrancy of our domestic auto industry. He contributed significantly to the Alaska Lands Act, enacted in 1980, which remains of the most significant pieces of environmental legislation of the last several decades.

Beginning in 1984, he served as chief of staff to Senator George Mitchell. His work to investigate the Iran-Contra affair could fill a book—and, in fact, Rich helped Senator William Cohen and then-Majority Leader Mitchell write "Men of Zeal," a book detailing the 1987 Iran-Contra hearings in which Rich played a critical role. As a special assistant for national security affairs for Senator Mitchell in the early 1990s, Rich handled a variety of intelligence matters, and his work required extensive travel around the world.

Since joining my staff in 1994, Rich has contributed to legislation protecting the Great Lakes, improving treatment for drug abuse, and preserving American jobs. Rich has been on the front lines of legislative efforts that have sometimes spanned years. He has been at my side at the crack of dawn each Wednesday morning for weekly radio interviews, at the ready to answer questions. His performance reflects a deep respect for the Senate and an understanding that the root of senatorial accomplishment is cooperation and collaboration.

He has worked long hours with a zeal for legislative maneuvering matched only by his passion for the Red Sox and exceeded only by his love for his family. I was honored that he and his wonderful wife Linda chose my Capitol hideaway as the site to celebrate their wedding, a joyful day that included a spirited procession through the Senate building and Capitol subway. And when his Red Sox won the World Series or when his beloved cocker spaniel had a new litter of puppies or when his sons or daughter were in the midst of an adventure, there was a glint in his eye and a smile would break across his face.

But there is no doubt that Rich's engaging stories, insightful observations, and flair for humor will be a treasure trove for the students who are fortunate enough to be in his classroom. They will learn the ins and outs of the Senate from the best. They'll learn about Rich's "tilted deck" theory, which predicts that the Senate will take until the eve of adjournment or weekend recess to act, and then, if it