

exchange of qualified capital stock and including effective date and retroactive applicability provisions.

Read first time and placed on the **Ways and Means calendar**.

House File 634, by committee on Ways and Means, a bill for an act relating to the policy administration of the tax and related laws and related programs by the department of revenue, including administration of income taxes, sales and use taxes, the orderly wind-up and eventual repeal of the Iowa fund of funds program, the replacement taxes task force, a study report related to administrative appeals processes for tax matters, and including effective date and retroactive and other applicability provisions.

Read first time and placed on the **Ways and Means calendar**.

The House stood at ease at 1:51 p.m., until the fall of the gavel.

The House resumed session at 1:55 p.m., Speaker Paulsen in the chair.

Rogers of Black Hawk, chair of the committee appointed to notify the Senate that the House was ready to receive it in Joint Convention, reported the committee had performed its duty. The report was received and the committee discharged.

The Sergeant-at-Arms announced the arrival of the President of the Senate, the Secretary of the Senate and the honorable body of the Senate.

The President was escorted to the Speaker's station and the members of the Senate were seated in the House chamber.

JOINT CONVENTION
PIONEER LAWMAKERS
SIXTY-SECOND BIENNIAL SESSION

In accordance with House Concurrent Resolution 6 duly adopted, the Joint Convention was called to order, President Jochum presiding.

President Jochum announced a quorum present and the Joint Convention duly organized.

Senator Gronstal of Pottawattamie moved that a committee of eight be appointed to escort the Pioneer Lawmakers into the House chamber.

The motion prevailed and the President appointed as such committee Senator Dvorsky of Johnson, Senator Courtney of Des Moines, Senator Boettger of Shelby and Senator Behn of Boone on the part of the Senate; and Representative Dolecheck of Ringgold, Representative L. Miller of Scott, Representative Anderson of Polk and Representative Ourth of Warren on the part of the House.

The House stood at ease at 2:05 p.m., until the fall of the gavel.

The House resumed session at 2:07 p.m., President Jochum presiding.

The Sergeant-at-Arms announced the arrival of the committee to escort the Pioneer Lawmakers.

The committee escorted the Pioneer Lawmakers into the House chamber.

President Jochum presented President Pro Tempore, Senator Steve Soddors, who welcomed the Pioneer Lawmakers on behalf of the Senate.

President Jochum presented Representative Kraig Paulsen, Speaker of the House, who welcomed the Pioneer Lawmakers on behalf of the House.

President Jochum presented the Honorable Jim Lykam, member of the House who responded to the welcome and announced the 1993 class of legislators who were eligible to become members of the Pioneer Lawmakers.

PIONEER LAWMAKERS
CLASS OF 1993

SENATE

Fink, Bill	Giannetto, Randall J.	Judge, Patty
Maddox, O. Gene	Vilsack, Tom	

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Blodgett, Gary	Boddicker, Dan	Brunkhorst, Bob
Cataldo, Mike	Churchill, Steven W.	Dinkla, Dwight L.
Drake, Jack	Ertl, Joseph L.	Fallon, Ed
Greig, John M.	Greiner, Sandra H.	Grundberg, Betty
Henderson, Mark	Houser, Hubert M.	Jochum, Pam
Klemme, Ralph F.	Kreiman, Keith A.	Larkin, Richard L.
Larson, Chuck	Martin, Mona	McCoy, Matt
Meyer, James A.	Moreland, Michael	Mundie, Norman
Nelson, Linda	O'Brien, Michael J.	Rants, Christopher C.
Weigel, Keith W.	Welter, Jerry J.	Witt, William G.

Honorary members of the 2013 class were the following:

HONORARY PIONEER LAWMAKERS

Braun, Mary	Ehrecke, Wes	Henter, Jim
Johnson, Brian	Presnall, Sharon	Romano, Joe
Smith, Julie	Smitherman, Sandy	Stork, Frank
Weiser, Scott		

Representative Lykam introduced Kathie Obradovich who addressed the Joint Convention as follows:

Thank you, Rep. Lykam, Mr. Speaker, Madame President and congratulations to the Pioneer lawmakers class of 1993.

You know, I always wondered what it would be like to stand in this spot and speak to all of you people. It's a little scary. After this, I may never sit over there on the west press bench during Condition of the State and make fun of the governor. (Actually, that's probably only half-true. I usually sit on the east side now.)

I'm not much of a historian and my memories of last week are fairly hazy, let alone 20 years ago. So I did some research to refresh my memory and found that the blockbuster

movie in 1993 was “Jurassic Park.” I thought I’d mention that in case we don’t already feel like dinosaurs.

Like many of you, I also came to the Iowa Statehouse for my first session in 1993. Unlike you folks, though, I arrived a month late. The Lee Enterprises newspapers had decided to reconstitute their Des Moines Bureau, which had been dark for a few years. By the time they hired me for the job and I made it to Des Moines, it was February. So much for newspapers being a deadline business.

I was kind of worried about missing so much of the legislative session, so when I arrived I asked Mike Glover, that grizzled veteran from the Associated Press, what I had missed. Nothing, he said. They spent the whole first month arguing about allowable growth. That’s great, I said. Meanwhile, I’m writing down on my to-do list: Find out what allowable growth is.” Rep. Art Ollie explained it to me. He really boiled it down in layman’s terms -- it only took about four hours to explain. It made sense at the time. It’s not his fault that I still don’t understand it.) That year I also learned the meaning of “non-germane” and “GAAP accounting.” I found out that a Pioneer lawmaker didn’t necessarily come to Des Moines in a covered wagon.

There is some good news for current legislators: Back in 1993, they eventually finished the allowable growth debate. I guess there’s still hope for this year. A lot of other things about 1993 may seem familiar. Terry Branstad was governor. The Legislature was divided, with Republicans in control of the House, Democrats in control of the Senate. There was talk of a death penalty debate, but nothing came of it that year. There was a proposal to put spending limits in the constitution. One of the governor’s priorities was cutting property taxes paid by businesses. Medicaid was a concern. The governor referred to the cost of health insurance for poor Iowans as the “Pac-Man of the state budget.” One of the hottest political questions at the start of that year: Will Gov. Branstad run for re-election? Some things never change.

Some things were different. Lawmakers that year came into session about \$400 million in the hole, and much of their work revolved around getting back in the black. Probably the most memorable accomplishment that year was welfare reform – again, done with a divided Legislature. The Capitol building was under renovation, and it still needed a lot of work. Back then, the golden dome was mostly green, and the rest of the place was dingy and shabby. These days, there’s plenty of green in the state treasury and the dome is gold again.

A little story about the regilding of the dome, replacing the gold leaf. In 1998 or 1999, I can’t remember which year, the scaffolding went all the way to the spire on top of the dome. They had a media tour so reporters could climb up there and take pictures. I’m a little afraid of heights, but I climbed up there with Mark Moran, who used to work for WOI public radio. I didn’t tell him, I kind of thinking I’d just go up as far as Mark did, and then get the heck back inside. But Mark didn’t stop, so we ended up all the way at the top. And the view was spectacular. It was totally worth the climb. But when it came time to climb back down, I was a little nervous. I told Mark to go ahead and I’d follow him.

“You go ahead,” he said. “The only reason I climbed all the way up here was because you did.”

Many other things have changed since 1993. Most of the people on press row have changed – although even after all of these years I still get mistaken for Kay Henderson from Radio Iowa. The House and Senate didn't get any bigger during the renovation, but there's room for a lot more people in here today. Iowans don't have to read the newspaper or listen to the radio or show up in person to find out what's going on the Legislature. Debate is carried live on the Internet. Iowans can read the bills online, follow the amendments and send legislators emails at their desks to comment on them. That's a change for the better. I hope legislators today will continue working to make it easier for Iowans to participate in their government.

Over the years, people often have asked me how I could stand to spend so much time with so many politicians. And I admit, there were times over the years when I wished I could be somewhere else. Like during debates on allowable growth. There are only so many times one can listen to a legislator say, "I'll be brief," and then demonstrate that he or she didn't know the meaning of the word. I always liked those accidental speeches that started, "I didn't mean to speak on this bill."

But when people have asked me about it, I usually told them I loved being at the Statehouse, mostly because of the people. To be sure, there have been a lot of characters. I remember one representative who used to sit right over there by the press bench. He was a casual sort of fellow and liked to take his shoes off during debate. I remember another gentleman who was just too honest for his own good. I was sitting here one day next to a reporter for an eastern Iowa paper when one of her local legislators came up to deliver his press release that he was running for re-election. She got out her notebook and started to interview him on the spot: "What's your biggest accomplishment?" He said, "Well, I haven't done much yet." He wasn't re-elected.

For the most part, though, I've found the vast majority of legislators, staff and yes, dear, even the lobbyists are brighter than average, ambitious, hard-working and motivated by an interest in helping people. Who wouldn't want to spend time with people like that?

One of my predecessors at the Register, Jim Flansberg, put it this way back in 1993:

"If you put all 150 Iowa legislators into a blender, the amalgamation that came out would startle you. It would be a person a lot better educated, a lot smarter and more savvy than the average citizen, a person capable of succeeding in virtually any endeavor, but one who's decided to do something about or to or for government."

I think if I had a blender that big, I'd rather make a giant margarita. But to each his own.

In that same column, Flansberg had this to say:

"A Legislature's duty is impossible. It can't achieve the ideal. It convenes in optimism and adjourns in pessimism. That's because its principal job is to accommodate the competing and conflicting interests that it represents.

"If a Legislature does the best possible job, finds a compromise between those competing interests, most members will still find themselves denounced for compromising. We've made a bad word out of the very thing that lawmakers are hired to do."

That was 20 years ago, folks, and I'd submit the problem is far worse today. People tend to get caught up in their differences and forget about the many things they have in common. But as I think back over two decades of legislators, the things that stand out in my memory have nothing to do with whether they were a D or an R. Maybe this isn't true for you, but I'm far more likely to remember kindness, a passion for fairness, the ability to admit mistakes and a really wicked sense of humor.

Ultimately, the people who really make a difference in this beautiful building are the ones who understand how to bring people together. Accomplishing great things in the Legislature is kind of like climbing up the outside of the Capitol dome. We will go far higher together than we'd ever dare to go alone.

Thank you and congratulations to the class of 1993.

On motion by Upmeyer of Cerro Gordo, the Joint Convention was dissolved at 2:33 p.m.

EXPLANATIONS OF VOTE

On April 10, 2013, I was necessarily absent during voting in the House chamber. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

House File 538 – “aye”

House File 617 – “aye”

DRAKE of Cass

On April 10, 2013, I was necessarily absent during voting in the House chamber. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Amendment H–1250 (H.F. 557) – “aye”

House File 538 – “aye”

House File 617 – “aye”

Senate File 384 – “aye”

LYKAM of Scott

On April 10, 2013, I was necessarily absent during voting in the House chamber. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

House File 538 – “aye”

House File 617 – “aye”

MCCARTHY of Polk