

COMMITTEE TO NOTIFY THE SENATE

Gassman of Winnebago moved that a committee of three be appointed to notify the Senate that the House was ready to receive it in Joint Convention.

The motion prevailed and the Speaker appointed as such committee, Gassman of Winnebago, Sieck of Mills and Hunter of Polk.

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

The House resumed session at 1:57 p.m., Speaker Paulsen in the chair.

Gassman of Winnebago, 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-THIRD BIENNIAL SESSION

In accordance with House Concurrent Resolution 8 duly adopted, the Joint Convention was called to order at 2:00 p.m., President Jochum presiding.

Senator Gronstal of Pottawattamie moved that the roll call be dispensed with and that the President of the Joint Convention be authorized to declare a quorum present.

The motion prevailed.

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 Hart of Clinton, Senator Kinney of Johnson, Senator Chapman of Dallas and Senator Garrett of Warren on the part of the Senate; and Representative Dolecheck of Ringgold, Representative Salmon of Black Hawk, Representative Gaskill of Wapello and Representative Oldson of Polk on the part of the House.

The House stood at ease at 2:02 p.m., until the fall of the gavel.

The House resumed session at 2:03 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 Senator Matt McCoy, who responded to the welcome and announced the 1995 class of legislators who were eligible to become members of the Pioneer Lawmakers.

PIONEER LAWMAKERS CLASS OF 1995

SENATE

Boettger, Nancy
Flynn, Tom
Redfern, Donald B.

Dearden, Dick
Johnson, JoAnn

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Arnold, Richard D.
Boggess, Effie Lee
Burnett, Cecelia S.

Barry, Donna Hammitt
Bradley, Clyde E.
Carroll, Danny C.

Coon, Brian A.	Cormack, Mike G.
Disney, Larry	Drees, James H.
Harrison, Neil P.	Heaton, David E.
Huseman, Daniel A.	Jacobs, Elizabeth "Libby" S.
Lamberti, Jeffrey M.	Main, Jerry D.
Mascher, Mary S.	Nelson, Beverly J.
Nutt, Ronald W.	Schulte, Lynn S.
Sukup, Steven E.	Taylor, Todd
Teig, Russell W.	Van Fossen, James "Jamie"
Veenstra, Kenneth J.	Warnstadt, Steve

Honorary members of the 2015 class were the following:

HONORARY PIONEER LAWMAKERS

Brandt, K'Ann	Boshart, Rod
Campbell, Amy	Harrmann, Terry
Haus, Kim	Jayne, Rev. Carlos
Kehoe, Theresa	Kephart, Peg
Pollak, John	Ryan, Marty
Simon, Julie	Taylor, Maureen

Senator McCoy introduced former legislator, Libby Jacobs who addressed the Joint Convention as follows:

PIONEER LAWMAKERS ADDRESS

Well, it certainly is a different perspective from this podium when one doesn't have to worry about getting the correct county name and person's name for the Gentleman or Lady that is trying to gain the presiding officer's attention. Thank heavens for the bright young minds of the pages, who sit here, to keep things moving in the House chambers.

Thanks too for the current lawmakers, staff, media reps and those in the gallery who allow time for the biannual Pioneer Lawmakers festivities. While it does not just seem like yesterday that this year's inductees were fresh faces here, it certainly doesn't feel as though it's been 20 years either. We all could fill in the blank to this statement, "Why it was only yesterday that..."

For the legislators being recognized as new Pioneer Lawmakers, thank you for your dedication and willingness to put your name on a ballot two decades ago. We can talk a bit about what motivated us to take a risk and run for the Legislature, as well as reminisce about that first session.

For the media, lobby and staff who are new honorary Pioneer Lawmakers, you obviously found this place interesting and somewhat entertaining over the years or you

certainly would have moved on to greener pastures. We can think about your roles in making this a special place.

So, for the legislators in the crowd, why on earth would we put our name on a ballot? OK, taking away the fact that there might be a bit of ego attached to that, what really caused us to run for office? Was it the attraction of knocking on thousands of doors, meeting voters and potential supporters, asking folks for money for our campaigns, the lure of potentially making significant policy decisions?

Or, was it the fact that as freshmen legislators we would get the great opportunity to floor manage enticing bills such as the Code Editor's update, or the annual federal funds bill? I still recall the look of sheer terror in Marty Lee's eyes when he was told that I would be running his major REALTORS bill. Oh, such little confidence in the freshmen.

From what I can recall of our first year in the Legislature, there were long caucuses for both parties, but particularly for the Democrats. As Republican freshmen, we didn't always have a lot to do to fill our time, so veteran legislator, the late Phil Tyrrell, organized an ad hoc tour of the attic one afternoon where we went looking for bats. For those of you on that escapade, you probably recall we didn't find any of those winged creatures, but we saw lots of old items tucked away upstairs, saw the charred walls from the fire in the Capitol way back when, and desecrated public property by signing our names on an attic wall. Obviously it didn't take much to entertain us novice lawmakers. We snuck outside to the platform around the Cupola as well, but that's another story for another time.

On a more serious note, that 1995 session was filled with some drama. Even before taking office we had a heavy decision to make due to a highly-contested race for Speaker. We had a thought-provoking debate on reinstating the death penalty. The expansion of the ICN was a big issue. And, we lost a legislator who was part of our new member class, Rep. Jerry Cornelius who passed away in December of 1995, not quite a year into his term. Regrettably, we have lost several others since.

But, all you youngsters out in the audience don't want to hear a bunch of tales about years gone by. You're into the now and future, and we get that. What I think we can all agree upon is that there's a special calling to public service, but why do all of us answer that call?

For the media, why do you sit through the long, laborious hours of debate, the inside baseball that legislators take such glee in pitching, and that means so little to folks not under the Golden Dome? While I would never speak for folks who buy ink by the barrel, or bandwidth in giganormous bits per second, I can hazard a guess. It's because you too are genuinely interested in the policy, politics and focus of this place. You're willing to miss family meals, be sleep deprived and sit on that bench for all to see because you are committed to upholding the First Amendment, to keeping us mindful of your presence as you look to encourage transparency and openness. While there have been times, in reading the coverage the next day that I truly wondered if we had been in the same meeting or heard the same debate, you have fulfilled your roles well and it's been a type of public service for you.

For the lobby, the Third House. What keeps you coming back? It certainly isn't the luxurious accommodations in the Rotunda or the library's cubbyholes. Yes, it's a pay check, but you too miss family time, run on little sleep, and learn that counting votes

isn't all it's cracked up to be. For you, sometimes the victory is in what did not get passed by the end of the session, a type of public service that can be laudable. But it's a calling for you as well, to focus on policy and politics.

I'm going to group staff and legislators together because at the end of the day, everyone in those roles made a decision to work for government, and that means working for the people of Iowa. Twenty years ago, the partisanship wasn't as rancorous as it is today, and we actually talked and worked across the aisle more often. Not all of the time mind you, but with some exceptions, we tended to do more agreeing to disagree than to figure out a way to make things so acrimonious.

So then, why, after all these years, do we keep coming back to this place, or to continue work as a public servant? Because we care, we want to do the right thing, and quite frankly there's a rush in those moments when plans go right, and we accomplish a goal. That fits for all of us in the room today, legislators, staff, lobbyists, and the media.

Even still, we have special tools or coping skills to get us through the more challenging days. Some things never change...candy and treats on desks around here help conquer a bit of the long days, and add to the freshmen 10. I still have my magic wand, a mainstay on my desk as Majority Whip and useful when that money tree stops producing, or when someone had "just one more request."

Above all, knowing that in the history of the state, truly only a handful of people have been able to experience all we have, and that it is a special privilege to work under the Golden Dome, is the best tool we have to use on those seemingly long, under-productive days.

Thanks for indulging this year's Pioneer Lawmaker class to flood the place with memories, stories and "back in the day" comments. A tip of the hat to everyone here who keeps the place running and the traditions alive. It's definitely the people who make serving the public such a rewarding experience for us all.

On motion by Upmeyer of Cerro Gordo, the Joint Convention was dissolved at 2:23 p.m.

The House stood at ease at 2:23 p.m., until the fall of the gavel.

The House resumed session at 2:38 p.m., Speaker Paulsen in the chair.

The House stood at ease at 2:38 p.m., until the fall of the gavel.

The House resumed session at 4:04 p.m., Wills of Dickinson in the chair.