

Representative's decision is a good one

Jerry Moran's decision to, at this time, seek another term in the U.S. House of Representative and bypass a shot at the governor's office next year, was probably in his and his district's best interest. Rep. Moran, a member of Congress since 1997, is probably the best known of all politicians in the state. After all his district — the huge First district — includes 69 of the state's 105 counties.

The Moran name is a household word. His decision to stay put is somewhat of a blow to the Republican's hopes of unseating current Gov. Kathleen Sebelius. With Moran out of the race there is certain to be a flurry of filings for that job and when that happens — like it happened in our last gubernatorial race — the GOP beat itself up so badly that Sebelius was able to waltz into office.

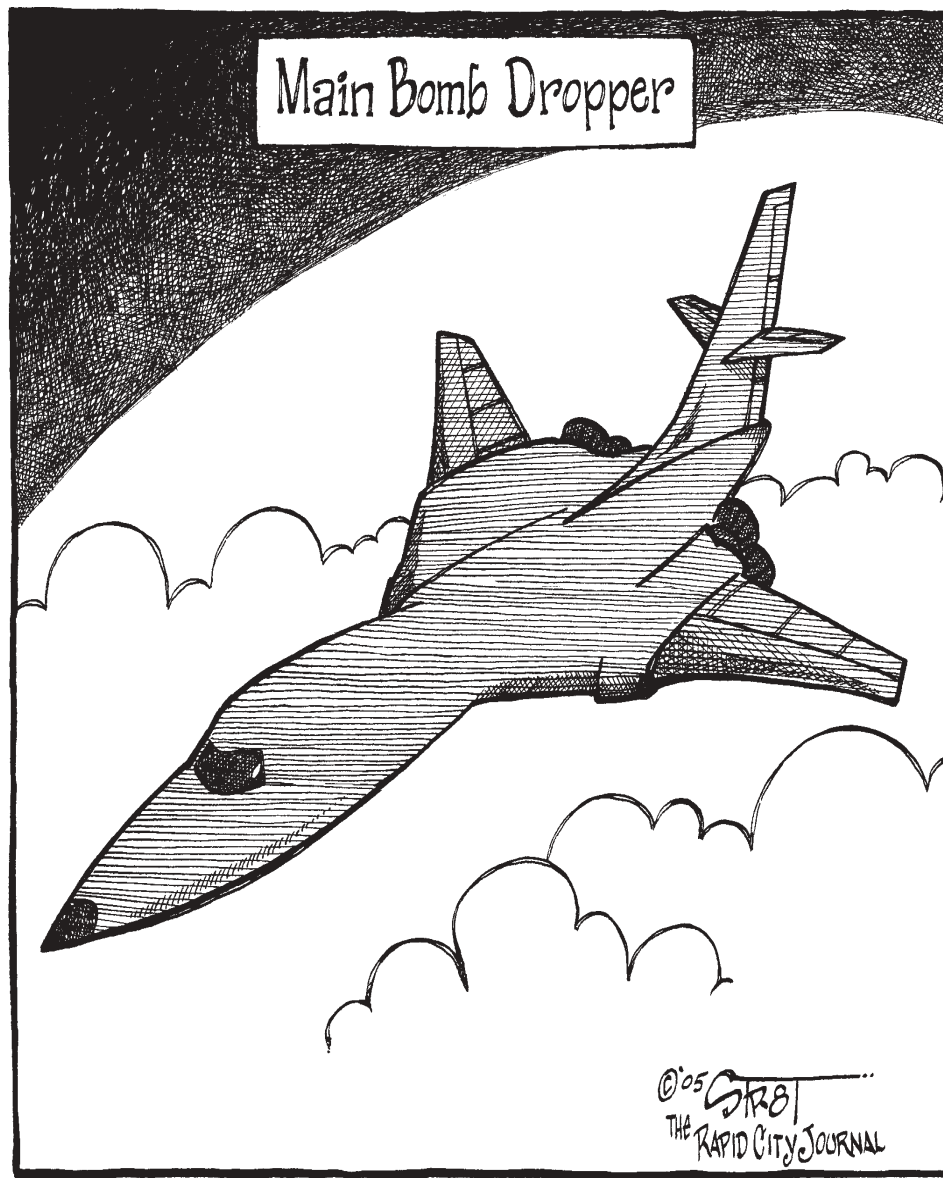
Had Moran moved toward a stab at the governor's chair, there would have been no primary battle. No bloodshed.

Rep. Moran is a respected and influential member of the U.S. House. He is one of those politicians that few people — Democrat as well as Republican — take issue with. He has a way with those he represents. And despite having one of the largest district's in the entire country, Rep. Moran still gets around to see "the folks."

It is our belief that Moran's decision to seek another term as our representative is being made for another reason: the U.S. Senate. One of these days — a few short years — Sen. Pat Roberts will go into retirement and who could slip into his shoes better than Rep. Moran?

Something to think about.

— Tom Dreiling



Some things can take your breath away

I remember when Jack and I were driving into Reno, Nev., for the first time. It was 1966, and although glitzy by some standards it was in many ways an old cow and railroad town.

Jack looked around at the hills and the distant Sierra Nevada's and said, "You know, I bet a person could learn to love this area".

And so began an ongoing love affair with the Sierra basin.

Its dry desert climate framed by snow capped mountains and billowing clouds shooting over them still brings a thrill to me.

But then again last week as I drove to Phillipsburg, so did the Kansas plains with clouds gathering in the west and the sheet of green emerging from the fields.

Newly arrived calves with their bony legs dotted the countryside.

Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard



I love going to the country at night and looking at stars that seem to rest on the horizon. Or remembering the call from my daughter-in-law not long after she moved here telling me to run and look out the window and see the moon. The bright orange ball was breathtaking.

My mother used to tell of the time she and my dad were traveling back from Salina and had stopped in Russell. They had been commenting throughout the trip

of the green pastures and wild flowers on the road's edge. The beauty of the area was exhilarating to them.

As they sat at their table in the local café they overheard a woman and her husband bemoaning the "God forsaken area they were in the midst of and would certainly be glad to get out of this desolate place". The woman pondered why anyone, anyone would have ever decided to settle in this area.

We have all decided one way or another where we live.

Life, is after all, about choice.

Sometimes jobs or family or adventure take us to new places. But nevertheless, we have decided to "settle".

Maybe the real adventure for each of us is finding the things that take our breath away and rejoicing.

WRITE:

The Norton Telegram encourages Letters to the Editor on any topic of public interest. Letters should be brief, clear and to the point. They must be signed and carry the address and phone number of the author.

We do not publish anonymous letters. We sign our opinions and expect readers to do likewise.

We do not publish form letters or letters about topics which do not pertain to our area. Thank-yous should be submitted to the Want Ad desk.

Letters will not be censored, but will be read and edited for form and style, clarity, length and legality. We will not publish attacks on private individuals or businesses which do not pertain to a public issue.

Congressman moderates wrap-up

Congressman Jerry Moran moderated the "Kansas Legislature Wrap-Up" show for Smoky Hills Public Television. The show focused on legislative activities of the 2005 Kansas Legislature.

Participants in the program was to be:

- Sen. Janis Lee (D-Kensington)
- Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer (R-Grinnell)
- Rep. Dennis McKinney (D-Greensburg)

• Rep. Eber Phelps (D-Hays)
The program will be aired at 6 p.m. Sunday on Smoky Hills Public Television. Consult your local cable company or local program guide to determine the public television channel in your area.

For more information, contact Congressman Moran at (202) 225-2715 or visit his web page at www.house.gov/moranks01/.

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

★ Governor Kathleen Sebelius, 300 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, Kan. 66612. (785) 296-3232

★ U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts, 109 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. (202) 224-4774; fax (202) 224-3514

★ U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback, 303 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. (202) 224-6521

★ U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran, 2443 Rayburn HOB, Washington, D.C. 20515. (202) 225-2715; fax (202) 225-5124

★ State Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer, State Capitol Building, Room 128-S, Topeka, Kan. 66612. (785) 296-7399

★ State Rep. John Faber, 181 W. Capitol Building, Topeka, Kan. 66612. (785) 296-7500

This will be my final letter of the 2005 Legislative Session.

All-in-all, things went pretty well this year.

The Legislature acted in swiftness to fix the clunker tax bill and pass the marriage amendment. It was encouraging to make such progress early in the session. This was the shortest session of my five years serving in Topeka.

So far the Governor has vetoed four bills and is threatening to veto the Circle-K-Ranch proviso.

One that I supported and worked hard on was the clinic licenser bill.

This bill would have required abortion clinics to step up their standards of care.

I was disappointed when she vetoed this, and I am sorry the House could not get enough votes to override it. In Kansas, animals have more protection in our veterinary clinics than the woman in abortion clinics.

Opponents say we should include all outpatient clinics, but I find it odd that only abortion clinics are having problems.

I appreciated the Governor signing the local pre-emption gun law that created uniformity in transporting guns across the state. I was also pleased when she signed the Senator Stan Clark pregnancy maintenance act. This allows the state to set aside \$300,000 to be used for matching funds grants to organizations which work to save babies from abortion.

Two bills were passed supporting our military. The first with a death benefit of \$125,000 for survivors of soldiers killed while on active duty, and secondly, HB 2310 adds additional decals to the list that can be displayed on a veteran's license plate.

Once again education was the most important issue this session.

Even though we raised base state aid the highest amount since the 1992 education act, it still didn't put any of my

Senate Doings Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer



districts in a positive balance.

Most districts will need to raise local option budgets in order to survive. I did not support this bill because of its reliance on the local option budgets. The 2010 commission has its work cut out to create a fair and suitable finance formula for all public schools in Kansas.

More uniform liquor laws were passed allowing Sunday sales, but cities and counties will need to opt in. At least the public will have an opportunity to vote this up or down. I still respect Sunday and did not support this legislation.

I attended the funeral for Sergeant Derrick Lutters this past week and was touched by the support of Goodland and surrounding communities. My sympathy goes out to his family and friends.

Congratulations to all area graduates. This is a special time in your lives and I hope you will now further your education and come back to Western Kansas to work and raise your families.

Thank you for the many contacts this past session and I look forward to being in your communities this summer and fall.

Finally I want to say thank you to my secretary Mary Rowson for the excellent job she has done. I would have been lost without her. Also thank you to my family and friends for their love and support.

In closing I would like to share with you the prayer written by Senator Chaplain Rev. Fred Holloman, given at the dedication of the Senator Stan Clark Wall of Honor dedication in Oakley May

15. "No one in his proper mind
Considers war the norm;
Especially those of us
Who wore the uniform.

But there must be a quick response
When our foes upon us swarm'
So our country called on us
Who wore the uniform.

We came in from the factory,
From the farm and college dorm,
And fought along with others
Who wore the uniform.

To keep our nation free
And safe from evil storm,
We gave ourselves as others have
Who wore the uniform.

We from the nation's heartland
Where the sun shines bright and warm
Fought for our nation's life with those
Who wore the uniform.

Not all of us are left to see
How our world has been transformed;
Beneath the crosses thousands lie
Who wore the uniform.

We grieve for empty places where
Once was a loved one's form,
But we are free because of those
Who wore the uniform.

We thank You for Your grace, O God,
And the nation You have formed
For everyone, including us,
Who wore the uniform."

Contact me at any time. I can be reached at Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer, State Capitol, 300 SW 10th Street, Room 128-S, Topeka, Kansas, 66612, or call (785) 296-7399. My e-mail address is ostmeyer@senate.state.ks.us.

Please let me know, if you would like to be on my mailing list.

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