

## Lovelady voting record on small business issues

Dan Murray, state director of the National Federation of Independent Business, said today that Travis Couture-Lovelady achieved a 100 percent voting record in the 2013-14 legislative sessions.

"Small business is the engine that drives Kansas' economy," Murray said. "By supporting small business, Travis Couture-Lovelady is supporting working families and the community." NFIB is Kansas' largest small-business association with over 4,000 dues-paying members representing a cross section of the state's economy.

"Travis Couture-Lovelady has stood up for Kansas' employers and job creators time and time again on important issues such as tax reform and unemployment insurance," he said. "Our members truly appreciate the efforts of Travis Couture-Lovelady to help grow our state's economy and create jobs."

To achieve a 100 percent NFIB/Kansas voting record, Travis Couture-Lovelady voted in support of small business on issues such as:

- Changing the process for nominating people who hear appeals related to workers' compensation and unemployment claims; the new nominating committee includes a representative from NFIB/Kansas.

- Allowing small businesses to band together to buy health insurance through self-funded health plans, thereby reducing the cost of coverage for small-business owners and their employees.

- Opposing a plan to increase the cap on non-economic damages in civil cases.

- Supporting legislation that would have improved standards for evidence and "expert" witnesses.

- Making it easier for employers to withhold a portion of a workers' pay to recover overpayment or the cost of lost or unreturned equipment.

- Prohibiting public-sector employee unions from using members' dues on political activities.

- Property-tax transparency.

- Preventing local governments from mandating minimum wages or benefits that are greater than the benefits required under state or federal law.

- Improving Kansas' unemployment insurance program.

- Protecting property owners from liability in the event someone injures themselves while trespassing.

National Federation of Independent Business

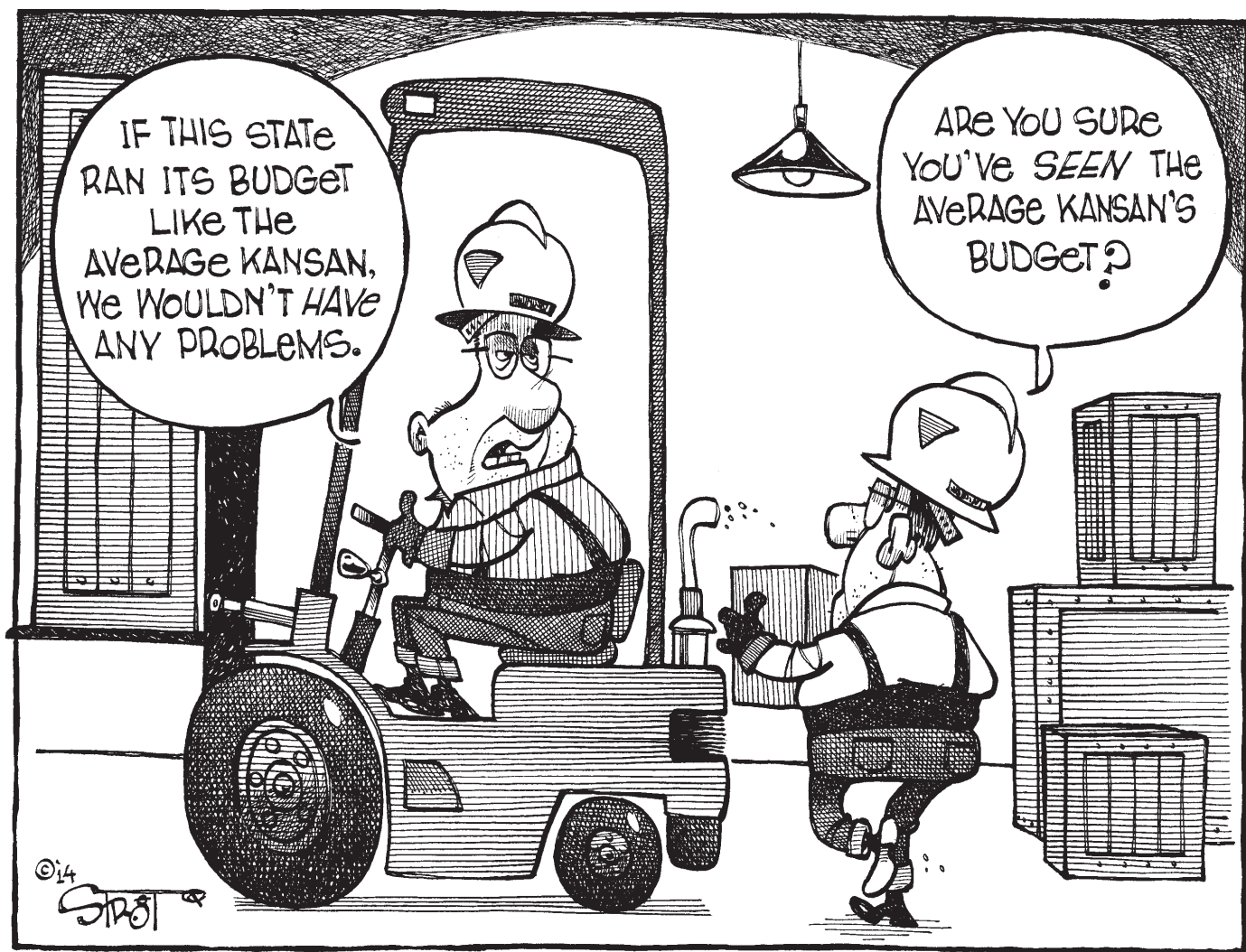
## Moran's statement on Senate vote on Bipartisan Veterans measure

U.S. Senator Jerry Moran, a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee and a sponsor of the Veterans' Access to Care through Choice, Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014, released the following statement today on the Senate's vote on the compromise bill:

"As a sponsor of the Veterans' Access to Care through Choice, Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014, I am pleased the Senate has risen to the occasion and come together on this critical legislation," Sen. Moran said. "I am still in Kansas attending to my family, but there should be no question of my support for this bill. Had I been in Washington, I would have joined my colleagues in voting in favor of this bipartisan plan to help make certain veterans receive the access to quality, timely care they

deserve. I will continue to work to address the challenges and problems at the Department of Veterans Affairs so our nation's heroes have a VA worthy of their service."

Sen. Moran laid his father and World War II Veteran Ray E. Moran to rest yesterday in Plainville, Kansas. Last Thursday, he made a plea on the Senate floor for his colleagues to put politics aside and pass legislation that truly addresses the failures within the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Sen. Moran called on the Senate to emulate the men and women commemorated by the War Memorials on the National Mall, individuals who served our country with honor, and were willing to make the ultimate sacrifice. Click here to watch Sen. Moran's remarks on YouTube.



## Fear of the unknown controls us

Sometimes our commitment to the Second Amendment stands in the way of common sense. We become more concerned with the effect on us personally than on the country as a whole.

Former South African President Nelson Mandela once said, "For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others." As we look at the many issues facing our country today, we have to be mindful of the overall good for society and not just the desire of a few.

As I am writing there has been yet another school shooting. The 74th since the Sandy Hook massacre 18 months ago.

My nephew Chris Foley of Fairfield, CA, posted on Facebook, "Hey, how 'bout we try something else with the whole gun thing? Clearly this is not working."

Unfortunately, the first thing out of some people's mouths will be, "You're not going to take away my guns." We don't want your guns; we want to have CONVERSATIONS. When both sides plant their feet, nothing happens. First off, there is no easy answer. Second, eliminating all guns in this country is

### Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard



not the only solution. Thirdly, I agree guns don't kill, and yet people, many times children, end up dead.

I do know this. Not everyone should have a gun. Statistics on gun ownership are varied. Most consider those which reveal a steady four decade decline in gun ownership as the most reliable. The trend appears to be more gun owners buying more guns, rather than more new gun owners.

After President Obama was elected gun sales soared. Surveys reveal Democrats and Independents now own guns at a rate nearly half what it was in the 1970s, whereas Republican gun ownership has decreased only slightly. Currently, about 34 percent of American households have at least one gun. Over 13,000 people worldwide were killed by ter-

rorists in 2010. During that same year, over 31,000 people were killed in the United States by guns. Clearly, whatever we are doing or not doing, isn't working.

The trend is changing, but the vocal minority is not.

The majority of Americans favor gun control: background checks (85 percent); banning assault style guns (55 percent) and high capacity ammunition clips (54 percent), and yet trying to get any substantial change in gun laws raises hackles and promotes even more fear. And fear is the driving force.

Fear that we can't protect ourselves from the evil (unfamiliar) government; fear that a thief will rob us of our precious possessions; fear that we can't protect ourselves from an intruder. Fear, fear, fear! All of this is from a country where the majority rules and claims to be a Christian nation that supposedly will be protected by God.

"Almighty God, lighten the darkness of our souls and keep us ever mindful of the needs of others. <mailto:mkwoodyard@ruraltel.net>mkwoodyard@ruraltel.net

## This too shall pass, no one died yet

### This Too Shall Pass Nancy Hagman



I'm thinking of changing the name of this column (again).

The first name was "Back Home". For me that lacked inspiration.

But that was my handle for six years! It's hard for me to believe but I've been doing this for over 10 years. I'm sure somewhere out there someone is thinking, "Really, it seems like she's been around for 100!"

In 2010, I requested the name change after the realization that too many times I missed many of the little jewels of life by focusing on all the stuff that wasn't so great. In that case I was helping a kid move!

"This Too Shall Pass" is a reminder to me: the bad stuff ends (if we let it) and the good stuff--Ah, it is so fleeting. We should not let it go easily.

Grab hold with both hands. Put it front and center every day. Be grateful! Poet Rod McKuen wrote, "I've been going a long time now along the way I've learned some things. You have to make the good times yourself take the little times and make them into big times and save the times that are all right for the times that aren't so good."

Lucky me, I actually heard him read those words while I was in college.

Recently someone posted a beautiful thought on being ordinary on Facebook. I can't find it now but the thought expressed was how, especially at graduation time, we focus on telling our children to "reach for the stars". A laudable goal, but the happiest people are the ones who see beauty in the ordinary; who somehow make each day special.

Okay, enough of all that rainbows and butterflies and unicorns nonsense. Back to reality.

A kid is moving! The new title for my column: "No One Died\*!"

"\*YET!!!!!"

When this column became "This Too Shall Pass." I said never, never, never, EVER again was I helping someone move.

Do I stutter? Have I lost my voice?

Truth? I have lost my voice, a summer cold. Being sick does not help

one's frame of mind one little bit!

Between being sick (I really am sick, I even went to the infamous "Quick Care"). If I was well I would be doing a five part investigative series on "Quick Care"! Sort of like the VA except NO ONE DIED.

One good thing about being basically extremely healthy is on the rare occasion one goes to the doctor, you get their attention. "You must be sick!"

So it's been a horrible week. What am I going to write my column about I asked the lovely Elizabeth Maughan, PHD.

Yes, she finally made it to Kansas via Garden City where we loaded her sister's stuff because said sister is moving! The unloading comes later! I'M NOT HELPING!

Elizabeth: the one who precipitated my "I'M NOT HELPING" thing!

What does she suggest I write about? Moving!

I cannot. I will not.

You know how sometimes you are so close to situation you cannot see the forest for the trees?

You know how it helps to step back and get perspective?

Maybe the trauma will fade. Meanwhile, I'm going back to bed!

This too shall pass.

No one died, yet!



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