

Georgia's 11th Congressional District who has distinguished himself as an excellent student and leader and has committed to serving his country. I am proud to announce that Scott Rowe from Kennesaw, Georgia has received an appointment to the United States Naval Academy. Scott attends Harrison High School, where he has a 3.75 Grade Point Average and has earned the College Board AP Scholar Award. Scott is also a member of Mensa. In addition to Scott's focus on academics, he has remained very active in extracurricular activities. He is on Harrison's wrestling and swim teams and is President of the school's Integrity Team.

Scott is also very involved in community service activities, such as Habitat for Humanity. Scott Rowe is an incredibly well-rounded young man, and I am honored to have the privilege to nominate him for an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy. I ask that my colleagues take this time to congratulate Scott as well as his parents, Larry and Barbara Rowe, for his accomplishments. It is because of dedicated young people like Scott that America has the finest military in the world. Our nation is fortunate to have his service.

TRIBUTE TO JOHNSON COUNTY ASSISTANT ELECTION COMMISSIONER KAREN BROWNING

**HON. DENNIS MOORE**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2009*

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to have this opportunity to pay Karen Browning, who recently stepped down after 41 years of service with the Johnson County, Kansas, Election Office, including 27 years as Assistant Election Commissioner.

Dedicated, experienced public servants like Karen Browning are the glue that holds government together at all levels, but they often do not receive the respect and consideration that they deserve. Karen Browning's retirement took from her office 41 years of deep devotion to her community and an intricate knowledge of the rules and history of Johnson County elections—a background that the citizens of Johnson County will find to be irreplaceable. I am pleased to have this opportunity to share with the other members of the House of Representatives a brief profile of Karen Browning which recently was published in the Johnson County Sun. I know that all Johnson Countians join with me in wishing Karen Browning all the best as she embarks upon her much deserved retirement, and we also thank her for her years of dedicated service and work to ensure that Johnson County elections have been conducted in a manner above reproach.

ELECTION OFFICIAL RETIRES AFTER SERVING 40 YEARS

(By Chuck Kurtz)

It was a one-issue, one-candidate "election" and assistant election commissioner Karen Browning cast the only vote: "Yes to Proposition Retirement."

After nearly 41 years with the Johnson County Election Office in Olathe, Browning officially retired May 22; a reception in her honor is planned for 3 to 6 p.m. June 17 at the Election Office, 2101 E. Kansas City Road, Southeast of Bass Pro, where Kansas

Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh will pay tribute to her service.

Also speaking will be County Chairwoman Annabeth Surbaugh and Johnson County Election Commissioner Brian Newby.

Browning said she always will look back on her career with great fondness.

"My time at the Election Office was an incredible experience, full of hard work, passion for elections and democracy," she said. "It has been a great career that I have always enjoyed, but it's time for a new chapter in my life and to take it easy." In the past 40 years Browning has: Worked in more than 200 Johnson County elections, including 11 presidential elections; Served under six of Johnson County's eight election commissioners and 32 county commissioners; and, Watched the county's voter registration increase almost fourfold.

She said she welcomed the end to hand-counting thousands of paper ballots when the county switched to touch-screen voting machines. Counting paper ballots is time consuming, she said, and computers bring quicker results and less stress.

Browning's passion for the importance of voting was instilled in her as a child.

"My folks always talked about voting and how important it was," she said. "I started when I was young. Voting was already an important part of my life."

That led to her passion for doing her best as an employee at the election office. Newby said Browning was a walking encyclopedia and office historian. She has complete records on every election since she has been with the county.

"If anyone has a question about a past election, Karen is the person to ask," he said.

"She has given so much to our county and to our voters; she provided the best return on tax dollars that could ever be imagined," Newby said. "She leaves with the distinction of being the most effective election office employee ever in Johnson County."

In Browning's first presidential election Nov. 5, 1968, a total of 88,314 of Johnson County's 100,610 registered voters cast their ballots. In her last presidential election, Nov. 5, 2008, a total of 285,001 of the 364,441 registered voters cast ballots.

Her first job at the election office was as a key punch operator since all voter registration cards and reports were typed by hand.

"When we processed registrations, we typed them into the books that went to the polling places," she said. "We typed men on one page and women on another, which I found very interesting."

Newby said Browning has been instrumental in the evolution of the voter registration process, which she has overseen for many years.

In 1978, Browning was named election clerk supervisor followed by election manager in 1979 with primary responsibilities for voter registration and list maintenance.

She has served as assistant election commissioner the past 27 years.

Browning also has overseen Census and mapping operations, and knows Johnson County geography like the back of her hand, since any "visible ground feature" might someday be needed as a precinct boundary.

Although the election process has experienced significant changes over the years, Browning said one thing has not changed. The integrity of the ballot, even from a touch-screen voting machine, is still held sacred, and that requires rigorous adherence to the office's confirmation procedures, she said.

Browning has mixed feelings about leaving Johnson County public service, but admits she will most miss the people.

"Elections begin and end with people," she said.

In retirement, Browning plans to spend more time with her family, and continue to volunteer in her many civic and church activities.

Her family includes three sons, three grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

"We will miss her and wish her well," Newby said, "but we are gratified to know that she will always be a phone call away to advise us if we have a thorny issue. We even offered—threatened, I guess—to continue equipping her with a Blackberry so she could still be in the e-mail loop and give us guidance."

So far, no response from Browning.

EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. JO ANN EMERSON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2009*

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information in regards to the Fiscal Year 2010 Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Bill and the Fiscal Year 2010 Homeland Security Appropriations Bill.

Requesting Member: Representative JO ANN EMERSON

Bill: Fiscal Year 2010 Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Bill

Account: OJP-Byrne

Requesting Entity: Southeast Missouri Network Against Sexual Violence

Address of Requesting Entity: 1106 Missouri Avenue, West Plains, Missouri 65775

Description of Request: To provide an earmark of \$200,000 to the Southeast Missouri Network Against Sexual Violence (SEMO NASV) to equip and staff an office in the Bootheel of Missouri to assist victims of domestic and sexual violence, as well as support local law enforcement investigations. SEMO NASV provides services to over 700 adult and child victims of sexual and physical abuse. The organization serves a 10 county region in Southeastern Missouri. It plays a vital role in the process of convicting sex offenders, provides counseling and other services to victims. The funds will be spent as follows: \$126,000 for personnel, \$59,000 for equipment, \$12,000 for office space, and \$3,000 for training and travel.

Requesting Member: Representative JO ANN EMERSON

Bill Number: Fiscal Year 2010 Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Bill.

Account: COPS-Meth

Requesting Entity: Southeast Missouri Drug Task Force

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 1763, Sikeston, Missouri 63801

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$200,000 to supplement and support operations of the Southeast Missouri Drug Task Force (SEMO DTF). SEMO DTF is a multi-jurisdictional drug task force unit that serves a 10-county area of Southeast Missouri. The unit conducts both covert and overt investigations into the possession, manufacture, and distribution of controlled substances. The funds will be spent as follows: \$32,000 for personnel, \$89,000 for overtime compensation, \$66,000 for equipment, \$4,500 for telecommunication services, \$6,000 for supplies, and \$2,500 for personnel expenses.