

citizens need to be watchdogs. But we get paid to do it."

No shock to any who know him—Steve Kimbell's decision to retire is a political one. He tied it to Jim Douglas' decision not to run for a fifth term. He pointed out that a political shift like the one we may see this election cycle only comes along every decade or so. Whatever happens there will be a new political cast. So it seemed to him like the right time to give a different generation a chance.

There was nothing sudden about his decision. The partners in the firm have been planning for this for a year. But wary of making Kimbell a lame duck in his final legislative session they kept the story close, a remarkable accomplishment in a town that does not guard political secrets particularly well.

Not at all, most of the time.

I asked him if he could really quit.

"I have gotten up and gone to work for 40 years," he said, "either working for myself or somebody else. It will be a major change but it's worth a shot."

He says he is going to tend the farm in Tunbridge.

I am not 100 percent convinced.

Kimbell's career spans the terms of every governor since Tom Salmon—Salmon, Snelling, Kunin, Snelling again, Dean and Douglas.

He reflected.

"Governors are not noted for their sense of humor," Kimbell said, referencing a quality he values in politicians—politicians like Art Gibb, Bob Gannett and Ralph Wright.

"Snelling made an art form of being the intimidating presence in the room."

Not very funny.

"Howard was frantic. Not much time for levity."

But Salmon, Kimbell said, was funny.

"He would hop into his state police car and say 'Let's go to Boston.' And he'd go to see a Red Sox game."

Kimbell first got directly involved in electoral politics in almost as off-hand a manner.

"After the '78 session I was leaving the Statehouse with Madeleine [Kunin]. She was chair of the Appropriations Committee and running for lieutenant governor. 'I need a campaign manager,' she said. I got paid \$150 a week. She beat Peter Smith by 2,500 votes."

And he recalled how Kunin won.

"Within earshot of reporters, Peter Smith said that 'all the broads' were going to vote for Madeleine. That ill-advised comment is what swung the election."

When Kunin was governor Kimbell served for two years as her state planning director, the person in charge of the administration's legislative program.

"I found that I didn't really like working inside the government," he said. "I got out and went back to my private practice."

Then came the partnership with Kunin's press secretary, Bob Sherman.

"We went to Seyon Pond fishing and talked about what we really ought to do. We concluded that combining law and journalism in a firm to do advocacy was a good idea."

And to call it just that is an understatement. Kimbell Sherman & Ellis has no peer in Vermont. Not only is it the most successful lobbying firm in the state, it has also built an out-of-state client list which now represents about half of the business. It has offices in Washington and does business all over the country, tracking and reporting on

issues and also specializing in crisis management.

When I asked Kimbell about the most dramatic moment in his political memory, he recalled the death of Richard Snelling in August of 1991.

"How many times does a sitting governor just drop dead," he said.

Howard Dean was in touch almost immediately.

"Howard called Sherman and said 'I need a speech within an hour,'" Kimbell recalled. "And we helped the new governor make the transition. He was here for a lot of meetings. And we took some heat. The press said 'How can these lobbyists advise the new governor.' A lot of the criticism was probably warranted, but sometimes you just have to do things."

And Howard Dean is not the only politician to have beaten a path to Steve Kimbell's door. For a couple of decades now candidates and potential candidates have come to Kimbell & company. They want to know—from someone who does—if they should or if they shouldn't.

"We are in the business of politics," Kimbell said. "It doesn't matter where they come from. If they want to talk to us, we give advice."

And Steve Kimbell has brought this sort of matter-of-fact attitude to all his efforts. Despite his highly visible work for civil unions and gay marriage, he insists that his approach is always the same.

"I'm an advocate," Kimbell said. "I take a hard-nosed approach. To do this job you have got to be well prepared, emotionless and tenacious. Gay marriage was a hugely emotional issue. I worked very hard to be analytical and strategic. It is my personal belief that that is what people pay us for."

Hard-nosed. True enough.

Savvy. Unparalleled.

Matter-of-fact. Certainly.

Passionate. Despite protestations.

And funny.

The politician's politician.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO PATRICIA J. COVINGTON

• Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, it has been nearly five decades since Patricia J. Covington, Director of VA's Congressional Liaison Service, began her public service, and nearly all of it has been with VA, first when it was the Veterans Administration, and, since 1989, as the Department of Veterans Affairs. Although she served in various capacities, it is in connection with her long and distinguished tenure at the Congressional Liaison Service that my colleagues and I, along with our staffs, know her. I am sure that there is not a Member's office in the U.S. Senate that does not regularly call upon her services. Over the years, Pat has worked tirelessly to ensure that our requests for information about VA or for help for veteran constituents are handled in a timely, thorough, and nonpartisan manner. On the occasion of her upcoming retirement, I call on my colleagues to join me in thanking her for assistance to us and to countless veterans,

most of whom will never know the critical role she has played in our efforts to improve their lives.

Pat entered public service in 1963. After an initial period of employment with another Federal agency, she moved to VA where she gained experience at the Board of Veterans Appeals with the appeals process for denials of disability claims. She also helped administer the Presidential Memorial Certificate Program, established by President John F. Kennedy to honor the memories of deceased veterans. As my colleagues know, each certificate bears the President's signature and conveys to the families of deceased veterans the Nation's gratitude for their service.

After gaining a hands-on understanding of many VA benefits and services, Pat joined the Congressional Liaison Service in 1971. The Committee on Veterans' Affairs, which I have the privilege of chairing, was established that year, marking the Senate's heightened commitment to addressing the then-emerging challenges facing veterans of the Vietnam war. I was not in the Senate at that time, but looking back at the large and impressive work of the early days of the committee in responding to a host of complex issues, along with the fact that there were thousands of new veterans seeking assistance from their Federal elected officials, it must have been a very challenging time in Pat's new assignment. From the start, she nevertheless kept pace with the unprecedented number of demands, deepening her knowledge about VA as she took on new responsibilities. In fact, Pat was so good at her job that over time she was repeatedly tapped to serve as Acting Director of the Congressional Liaison Service. In 2002, she was appointed as Director, and has continued to excel in that position.

Not long after I became committee chairman in 2007, a veteran arrived at the committee to seek help after being turned down by VA for additional benefits in connection with post-traumatic stress disorder. He had driven thousands of miles and related to committee staff that he had struggled with suicidal feelings. At the time, although VA had not begun to reckon with the rising tide of veteran suicides, Pat knew who to contact to provide counseling and other suicide-prevention services to the veteran and promptly secured a thorough review of his claim. Her compassionate and deeply informed assistance to this veteran was in keeping with her longstanding excellent work.

Committee staff and I have relied on Pat and the excellent staff she oversees for information about a wide range of matters relating to the large and complex dimensions of VA's mandate. From disability compensation to health care, construction and cemeteries, home long guaranties and the

new G.I. bill, her office has consistently responded with the highest professional standards. With a war on two fronts and increasing numbers of returning servicemembers from Iraq and Afghanistan, along with serious issues facing veterans from earlier wars, her contributions have never been more valued nor her services more needed. Yet to everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven. Pat is ending this chapter in her life and will soon open a new one. Again, I thank her for her long service to the committee and her unsurpassed commitment to the veterans of the Nation. I wish her every happiness in the days to come. We shall miss her.●

WILDROSE, NORTH DAKOTA

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today, I am pleased to recognize a community in North Dakota that is celebrating its 100th anniversary. From July 2-4, the residents of Wildrose, ND, will gather to celebrate their community's founding.

Wildrose, ND, is a Great Northern Railroad town site founded in 1910 in Hazel Township of Williams County. The post office for Wildrose was established on July 13, 1910. The site for the town was platted in 1910 and became an incorporated village in 1913. Until 1916, Wildrose was the terminus of the railroad line and billed itself as the largest primary grain market in the United States. Wildrose reached its peak population of 518 in 1930.

Grace Lutheran Church, located in Wildrose, will also celebrate its 100th anniversary on July 4. Wildrose Lutheran Church was founded in 1910. Shortly after the 50th anniversary, Stordahl, Grong, Bethel, and Wildrose Lutheran Churches merged into one church, and in January of 1962 the name Grace Lutheran Church was adopted.

In honor of the city's 100th anniversary, community leaders have organized a parade, a beard contest, a street dance, and many other fun and exciting events.

I ask that my colleagues in the U.S. Senate join me in congratulating Wildrose, ND, and its residents on their first 100 years and in wishing them well in the future. By honoring Wildrose and all other historic small towns of North Dakota, we keep the great pioneering frontier spirit alive for future generations. It is places such as Wildrose that have helped shape this country into what it is today, which is why this fine community is deserving of our recognition.

Wildrose has a proud past and a bright future.●

PETTIBONE, NORTH DAKOTA

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I am pleased to recognize a community in

North Dakota that will be celebrating its 100th anniversary. On July 3-4, the residents of Pettibone will gather to celebrate their community's history and founding.

Pettibone began as a Northern Pacific Railroad station, and was founded in 1910 by Lee C. Pettibone, who named the growing community after himself. The post office was established on September 1 of that year. Pettibone is the home of the late William Hurley, a successful civil rights lawyer who won the first monetary settlement against the Ku Klux Klan in the 1960s.

Today, Pettibone is a town of about 75 people located in the northeastern part of Kidder County. It contains several different businesses including a Cenex, a grocery store, two bars, a cafe, and a post office. With its gently rolling hills, German-Russian, Scandinavian, and Dutch immigrants found the land suitable to cultivating large fields of the crops they knew how to farm. Today, their descendants grow wheat, barley, oats, potatoes, flax, and beans—all crops that continue to be important to our country's agricultural industry.

The 100th anniversary festivities will include a parade, a carnival, a magician, fireworks display, demolition derby, and other celebratory events.

I ask the U.S. Senate to join me in congratulating Pettibone, ND, and its residents on their first 100 years and in wishing them well in the future. By honoring Pettibone and all the other historic small towns of North Dakota, we keep the great pioneering frontier spirit alive for future generations. It is places such as Pettibone that have helped to shape this country into what it is today, which is why this fine community is deserving of our recognition.

Pettibone has a proud past and a bright future.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

(The nomination received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 5297. An act to create the Small Business Lending Fund Program to direct the

Secretary of the Treasury to make capital investments in eligible institutions in order to increase the availability of credit for small businesses, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for small business job creation, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-6265. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Para-Aramid Fibers and Yarns Manufactured in a Qualifying Country" (DFARS Case 2008-D024) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 18, 2010; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6266. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Franklin L. Hagenbeck, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6267. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral Thomas J. Kilcline, Jr., United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6268. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of (14) officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of major general and brigadier general, as appropriate, in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6269. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department of Defense's intent to expand the role of women in the Marine Corps; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6270. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Reserve Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report for fiscal year 2009 of the National Guard Youth Challenge Program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6271. A communication from the Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the cost of response and recovery efforts for FEMA-3309-EM in the State of North Dakota has exceeded the \$5,000,000 limit for a single emergency declaration; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6272. A communication from the Chairman of the Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to the Congress on Profitability of Credit Card Operations of Depository Institutions"; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6273. A communication from the Administrator, Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Annual Energy Outlook 2010"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.