

Kansas House of Representatives honors Martin Hawver

The Kansas House of Representatives on Jan. 22, 2007, made a special presentation to **Martin Hawver**, editor and publisher of **Hawver's Capitol Report**, to honor his 30 years of covering the Kansas Legislature.

Martin began covering the Kansas Statehouse and Legislature in January 1977. The 2007 legislative session is Martin's 31st session. He covered the Legislature for 17 sessions for the Topeka Capital-Journal (prior to his legislative assignment, Martin had worked at the C-J since 1968, starting as a copyboy and then becoming a reporter and weekend city editor). Martin left the newspaper in May 1993 to join Hawver News Co., a writing/editing business which Martin's wife, **Vickie Griffith Hawver**, left her reporter/editor job at the C-J in 1991 to start.

In June 1993, their business launched **Hawver's Capitol Report**, a printed newsletter focusing on Kansas politics and government. Over the years the Hawvers added an e-mailed news bulletin component in 1999 and went virtually all-electronic as a news service in 2006. The news service has grown to the point it is the main project of Hawver News Co. for both Martin and Vickie.

The 2007 legislative session marks the 14th session for Martin at **Hawver's Capitol Report**. Martin, who virtually never wears socks, also is the "dean" of the Statehouse press corps, having covered the beat longer than any other reporters currently stationed there.

Here are the remarks by House Majority Leader Ray Merrick during the presentation Jan. 22 in the House chambers:

"In January 1977, a young man in a pair of loafers took a job as a Statehouse reporter for the Topeka Capital-Journal where he served for 17 years before launching his own news service, **Hawver's Capitol Report**. This session marks 30 years of



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"His tenure exceeds that of many legislators, and his understanding of the process serves his reporting well. Martin possesses the unique ability to understand and explain to his subscribers the nuts and bolts of the budget process and the political maneuvering that sometimes goes hand in hand with this intricate procedure. Having his own news service allows Martin to do what he does best . . . bringing wit and wisdom to the everyday routine news. Martin's reporting on hall-talk, silver fork awards, where's (the legislators') list and the terms he coins to bunk our carefully crafted plans keep us from taking ourselves too seriously all the time. Some of my favorites include 'The Clunker Act,' 'Slots for Tots' and 'Nuss-fuss.'

"Martin, thank you for your dedication to informing the public about the work we do here and the expertise you bring to your reporting. After 30 years in the statehouse, your institutional knowledge supersedes mine in all areas. It is my privilege to honor you today for your long-standing service with a gift from the House of Representatives. I'm pretty sure you don't have either of these. Thank you and congratulations."

Rep. Merrick then presented Martin with a pair of socks and a House certificate of appreciation.