

GOOD EVENING LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, AND WELCOME TO THIS VERY SPECIAL RECOGNITION RECEPTION FOR OUR ESTEEMED STATE REPRESENTATIVE RICK STREAM OF MISSOURI'S 90<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT.

WHEN I FIRST JOINED ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE EIGHT MONTHS AGO AS INTERIM CHANCELLOR I WAS TOLD ONE OF OUR STRENGTHS WAS AN EXCELLENT WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR STATE LEGISLATORS.

NOW, BEING FROM TEXAS, I WAS A LITTLE SKEPTICAL OF THAT CLAIM. YOU KNOW, IN TEXAS, TALES ARE ALWAYS A LITTLE TALLER THAN THE REALITY. WE COME FROM A BIG LAND WITH BIG DREAMS AND EVEN BIGGER BRAGGING RIGHTS.

SO FORGIVE ME IF YOU GOOD FOLKS FROM MISSOURI HAD TO "SHOW ME" THE TRUTH ABOUT THESE HARD-WORKING LEGISLATORS IN THE "SHOW-ME" STATE.

I HAVE COME TO APPRECIATE AND RELY ON THE SUPPORT OF OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS.

THIS SUPPORT IS CERTAINLY EVIDENT IN THE ACTIONS OF REP. RICK STREAM. HE HAS BEEN A CHAMPION AND STRONG ADVOCATE FOR ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE, AND THE MISSION OF OUR STATEWIDE SYSTEM OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES.

THAT SHOULD COME AS NO SURPRISE WHEN YOU LEARN THAT REP. STREAM IS ONE OF OUR OWN – A COMMUNITY COLLEGE SUCCESS STORY, WHO GRADUATED FROM THE MERAMEC CAMPUS IN 1969 WITH AN ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE IN BUSINESS.

AS AN ALUMNUS, HE UNDERSTANDS FIRSTHAND THE CRITICAL ROLE COMMUNITY COLLEGES PLAY IN HELPING STUDENTS BETTER THEIR LIVES AND ATTAIN THEIR GOALS.

HIS EFFORTS THIS SESSION TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY COLLEGES – PARTICULARLY AS THE CHAIR OF THE STATE BUDGET COMMITTEE – SHOW THAT HE NOT ONLY "TALKS THE TALK" BUT "WALKS THE WALK."

BUT TODAY'S RECOGNITION IS NOT JUST ABOUT THE STATE'S FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES. IT'S ALSO ABOUT OUR ALUMNI WHO SERVE AS ROLE MODELS AND MENTORS FOR OUR STUDENTS.

A GRADUATE OF KIRKWOOD HIGH SCHOOL, REP. STREAM WENT ON TO GRADUATE FROM MERAMEC COMMUNITY COLLEGE (AS I SAID), AND THEN TO THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-ST. LOUIS, WHERE HE EARNED A BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION IN 1971.

HE WAS A U.S. NAVAL OFFICER FROM 1971 TO 1975, AND THEN SERVED AS A BUDGET/PROJECT MANAGER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, ARMY AVIATION AND LOGISTICS COMMAND FROM 1977 TO 2006. HE SERVED ON THE KIRKWOOD SCHOOL BOARD FROM 1992 TO 2004, AND WAS ELECTED TO THE MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN 2006.

REP. STREAM ALSO SERVES AS VICE COMMANDER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 156 AND ATTENDS GREENTREE COMMUNITY CHURCH.

HE AND HIS WIFE, ELLEN, HAVE FOUR CHILDREN: KATIE, BETSY, LARRY AND ERIC.

WE ARE PROUD TODAY TO HONOR THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF OUR DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS, REP. RICK STREAM.

HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS – EARNING COLLEGE DEGREES, SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES, SERVING OUR COUNTRY IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, SERVING THE COMMUNITY ON THE SCHOOL BOARD, AND ULTIMATELY WORKING TOWARD THE BETTERMENT OF THE STATE IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES – ADD UP TO AN IMPRESSIVE CAREER OF SERVICE.

WE ALWAYS TELL OUR GRADUATES THAT THE MARK OF A SUCCESSFUL PERSON IS TO “LEAVE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE THAN YOU FOUND IT.”

REP. STREAM HAS, INDEED, ACHIEVED THAT MARK OF DISTINCTION, AS HE FINISHES HIS FOURTH, AND LAST, TERM IN THE MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WE ARE PLEASED THAT ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE PLAYED A ROLE IN HIS SUCCESS STORY.

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