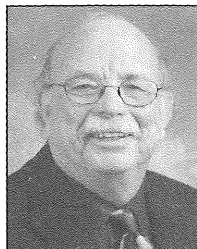


Never slowing down

Newest member has wealth of experience

By **MIKE COOK**

Rep. Larry Haws (DFL-St. Cloud) figures that he knows 80 percent of the people when he walks through the downtown of his hometown.



Rep. Larry Haws

He probably should. The newest House member has a long list of involvement in the area. It might be easier to ask Haws what he hasn't done.

An affable guy, Haws won a Dec. 27 special election to replace former Rep. Joe Opatz, whom he coached in wrestling. That is one of four sports Haws has coached at the high school or collegiate level. He has coached national or state championship teams in cross country, soccer, track and wrestling, and still hopes to help coach one youth sports team each season, but not in a place he once coached.

"My claim to fame was I coached the reformatory wrestling team for three years," he said. "I said we weren't very good but we had a killer instinct."

Additionally, he spent 32 years in the St. Cloud Parks and Recreation Department, including 17 as director; spent the past seven years on the Stearns County Board of Commissioners; and hosted a talk radio show. Plus, he has served on more than two dozen boards and helps out weekly at a mission.

He says his past is an asset because what he's learned cannot be bought or blessed upon someone. "I know a lot of things that other people don't know because I've earned my experience," he said, before laughing and adding, "It's just an advantage of getting old."

Throughout his career, Haws has been a consensus builder.

"We created a parks system on community spirit," he said. "We raised \$8.3 million in a 32-year period with donations. At the end,

DISTRICT 15B

2002 population: 36,675

Largest city: St. Cloud

Counties: Benton, Sherburne, Stearns

Top concerns: education, seniors and veterans

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we had 75 organizations and 2,000 volunteers doing something nice for the parks system on a yearly basis. What it taught me was the power of synergetic explosions."

Haws, who views life as a vacation, serves on the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs and Higher Education Finance committees.

"Veterans services is a major portion of the area I serve because we have a VA, and higher ed is good because we have wonderful college systems, private and public, and our Vo-Tech is really hot."

BILL INTRODUCTIONS

MARCH 1 - 2, 2006

HOUSE FILES 2563 - 3142

Wednesday, March 1

HF2563-Gunther (R)

Jobs & Economic

Opportunity Policy & Finance

Workforce center capital budget requests required to be presented by the commissioner of employment and economic development.

HF2566-Welti (DFL)

Jobs & Economic

Opportunity Policy & Finance

Leaves of absence authorized for employees to spend time with an immediate family member who has been mobilized for active military service.

HF2567-Welti (DFL)

Jobs & Economic

Opportunity Policy & Finance

Leaves of absence authorized for employees to attend military send-off or homecoming ceremonies for immediate family members.

HF2568-Welti (DFL)

Jobs & Economic

Opportunity Policy & Finance

Leave of absence; employers required to grant unpaid leave of absence for an employee to attend memorial services on Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

HF2569-Mullery (DFL)

Civil Law & Elections

Use of trust instruments to shield resources that could otherwise be used to pay for the cost of long-term care services regulated.

HF2570-Paulsen (R)

Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs

Teacher retirement plan service credit provided for teachers on active military service.

HF2571-Dill (DFL)

Commerce & Financial Institutions

Petroleum tank fee collection time periods modified.

HF2572-Nelson, M. (DFL)

Health Policy & Finance

Food Code rule amendment required.

HF2573-Mullery (DFL)

Health Policy & Finance

Fair share health care act adopted, fund established, employer payments required and criminal penalties imposed.

HF2574-Howes (R)

Health Policy & Finance

Cass County hospital construction moratorium exemption provided.

HF2575-Mullery (DFL)

Civil Law & Elections

Voting rights notice required to certain felons upon termination of probation or supervised release.

HF2576-Knoblach (R)

Local Government

Local governments prohibited from adopting ordinances which prevent employees from cooperating with federal immigration authorities.