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Lourdine Florek, owner

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Citing family reasons, Tim Johnson announces retirement

URBANA, IL. – U.S. Rep. Timothy V. Johnson announced his retirement Thursday at a news conference in the Urbana City Council Chambers of the Urbana City Building, where he began his career in public service more than 40 years ago.

Johnson tearfully made the announcement, citing family obligations. He will finish out his term but will not seek reelection, despite handily winning the March primary.

"My family obligations, however, are what compels this announcement," Johnson said. "Exclusively. I'm almost 66 years old. My time is limited. I have been

serving in office for 44 consecutive years. I'm also the father of 9 children, have 11 grandchildren and now two great-grandchildren. I have been a part-time father in all those years. That's not good enough.

"One of my grandsons is two years old; I have seen him for a total of about 10 minutes. I have another grandson who asked me not long ago if I was ever going to come to one of his ballgames. I didn't have an answer."

Johnson said he cannot represent his current district, campaign in the new 13th district, be in Washington D.C. and fulfill family obligations. "It would be a disservice to all to attempt that. I am confident that in making this decision and preparing to return to private life, I am doing the right thing for the people most important to

See JOHNSON on other side

Legion Honor Guard members to be recognized at event

Hoopeston American Legion Post 384 will have a special tribute to members who have donated their time to participate in graveside rites for veterans who have fallen.

Saturday, April 14 will be Honor Guard Appreciation Day. The event will kick off with a social hour at 4 p.m., followed at 5:30 p.m. by a complementary meal. A short program will follow the meal, recognizing five senior honor guard members: Bob Drew, Chuck Hollen, Arther "Red" Nelson, Hank Vackett and Chuck Whiteman, all of whom have been active for more than 55 years.

Members, family and friends are cordially invited to attend. RSVPs are appreciated but not required. Call the post home after 3 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, (217) 283-6312.

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Johnson continued from other side

me, my family,” he said.

A second, indirect reason for his retirement, Johnson said, was the health of fellow Republican, U.S. Senator Mark Kirk, who suffered a stroke in January.

Johnson, who often broke with his GOP counterparts, surprised leaders in both parties with the announcement. State Republican leaders in the 14 counties making up the 13th District will now have to choose a replacement candidate to run in the new district.

Johnson started his political career in the same place where he announced his retirement—in the Urbana City Council Chambers.

In his statement, Johnson said he has taken on new responsibilities in the last year. A member of the House Committee on Agriculture, in January he became chairman of the House Agricultural Subcommittee on Rural Development, Biotechnology, Research and Foreign Agriculture. He also serves on the subcommittee on Department Operations, Oversight and Credit, as well as

Obituaries

RIPPLE - Samuel R. Ripple, 71, of Watseka, died Wednesday, April 4, 2012, at home. Visitation was 1-4 p.m. Saturday at Knapp Funeral Home, Watseka, with funeral service at 4 p.m. Cremation rites were accorded. Family graveside service and burial will be at a later date. Memorials are suggested to Iroquois County Amateur Radio Club, American Red Cross of Iroquois County or Iroquois Memorial Hospice.

SCULLIN - Elizabeth B. “Betty” Scullin, 74, of Camarillo, Calif., formerly of Hoopeston, died Wednesday, April 4, 2012, in California. Memorial Mass will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 28, at St. Anthony Catholic Church, Hoopeston. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be 4-7 p.m. Friday, April 27, at Wolfe Funeral Home, Hoopeston. Memorials may be made to a charity of the donor’s choice.

SHEFFIELD - Nora Joan Sheffield, 74, of Chicago, died at 4:06 p.m. Monday, April 2, 2012, at St. Joseph Hospital, Chicago. Visitation was 10-11 a.m. Monday at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston, followed by funeral service at 11 a.m. Burial was in Floral Hill Cemetery, Hoopeston. Memorials are suggested to Epworth United Methodist Church, 5253 N. Kenmore Ave., Chicago, IL 60640.

the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the subcommittees on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management; Highways and Transit; and Water Resources and Environment.

Johnson also cited the new “and grossly gerrymandered Congressional map...that created a district where two thirds of the voters had never been represented by me.”

Johnson plans to practice law. “I will continue to be involved politically where appropriate, and continue to

Police News

Vickie Ford, 53, of Hoopeston, was arrested at 1 a.m. Thursday in the 800 block of East Seminary. She was charged with assault under city ordinance on a complaint from a 54-year-old Hoopeston man. Ford was released on a notice to appear in city court.

A 22-year-old Hoopeston man reported at 5:25 p.m. Thursday that someone took several items from his home in the 800 block of South Fourth Street.

A full cooler was found Thursday at Main and Market. The owner may identify and claim it at the police station.

Donald Underwood, 27, of Hoopeston, was arrested after an incident at 11:18 p.m. Thursday in the 500 block of South Fifth Street. He was charged with criminal damage to property under \$300 on a complaint from an 18-year-old Hoopeston woman who alleged Underwood broke a window at her home.

Underwood was released on a notice to appear.

At the same time, Underwood was charged with battery on a complaint from a 20-year-old Hoopeston woman. He was released on a notice to appear.

Moises A. Torres, 29, of Hoopeston, was arrested after an incident at 6:30 a.m. Friday in the 200 block of North Market. He was charged with domestic battery on a complaint from a 33-year-old Hoopeston woman and was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville.

Weather

Breezy today. High 52. Tonight, frost. Low 31. Tomorrow, sunny. High 56, low 34.

For current weather conditions, call Hoopeston Weather Service, (217) 283-6221.

speak out as I see fit on the issues of the day,” he said. “I also hope to be involved in teaching as well. I will not be a paid lobbyist at any time in the future.

Johnson said two of his aides, Mark Shelden and Phil Bloomer, will not seek his office. Neither will any of his family members, Johnson said

“Serving in public office has been a great honor as well as a tremendous responsibility. I will always treasure the thousands of friends and colleagues I have found along this journey. Most importantly, I hope that I have kept the trust of the hundreds of thousands of people I have represented over the years,” he said.

Since Johnson announced his retirement, several Republicans have been mentioned as possible candidates, including Jerry Clark, Johnson’s former chief of staff.

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