

PENNSYLVANIA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
BIPARTISAN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

INTERVIEW WITH:

The Honorable Ken Smith (D)

112th District

Lackawanna County

2007-2012

INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY: Raymond Whittaker III, Programs Coordinator
October 2, 2012

Transcribed by: Kristin O'Brassill-Kulfan

Raymond Whittaker (RW): Good morning.

The Honorable Ken Smith (KS): Good morning. How are you doing?

RW: Good. I'm here with Representative Ken Smith, who represents the 112th District in Lackawanna County. A Democrat who served between 2007 and 2012. Thanks for joining us this morning.

KS: It's great to be here.

RW: I want to begin by first asking you to talk about your childhood, essentially being raised in the district you've come to represent.

KS: That's right. I [was] born and raised in Dunmore, but my family had a family business, a restaurant, in south Scranton. So, as I've always said, over the years, I've had dual citizenship between south Scranton and Dunmore. So many people, if they live in Dunmore, they think that, you know, in my early years I grew up in south side. And just the opposite with people in south side, you know, it's funny that the different, the different areas and the different perspectives as to who you are as a person.

RW: Talk a little bit about your educational experience. You went to, you said you went to Dunmore High School, and then after that?

KS: Right. Actually, I started at St. Mary's School in Dunmore. I belonged to St. Mary's Parish and I have two older sisters and a younger brother. My two older sisters went to St. Mary's and then I started in the first grade, and it was a very short period of time when I decided that myself and the IHM sisters weren't going to have a great relationship. And I think the first problem I had was that I was lefty. When I was starting to write, they didn't like that and they would actually correct me and say, "You have to write with your right hand and not your left." And I think that began the conflict. And eventually I went to my mother and I said, "Mom. This relationship isn't going anywhere positive. They don't seem to like me, and I don't like them much as well." And much to the credit of my mother, I ended up, she went to Dunmore and looked into the school district and she said, "If you'd like to go to Dunmore, why don't you give that a shot?" And I did, and the rest is history. And I loved it. As a matter of fact, both of my children, my son Ryan and my daughter Kaleena, are both graduates of Dunmore School District.

RW: Then you went on to Keystone College.

KS: Then I went on to Keystone College. And I got my degree in Food Service Management and then actually spent some summers up in Rhode Island at Johnson & Wales University over there.

RW: Oh, cool.

KS: They had a, you had to have a degree to get into the program, it was a Food Service Professionals program, and it helped me to grow the culinary side of my, of my education. But, I went into the family business. My family owned Smith's Restaurant in south Scranton for 76 years.

RW: Wow.

KS: And my grandmother started it in 1934, and I think about a woman in 1934 that said "hey, you know, I think we have something here." But the interesting part was my grandfather worked in the breaker. And in the morning, if the whistle blew, he went to work. And if it didn't, he didn't go to work, and they had seven children. And my grandmother said, we need to, we need to do something here, to support the family. And right around the restaurant, in a horseshoe, there were factories. Many factories, to the tune of approximately 8,000 people being employed there. Capitol Records, if you remember that from The Beatles era; Consolidated Molding; the Murray plant; there was a blue jean factory; there was a casket company; there was Lackawanna

Pants; on and on, soap mill. But anyway, many people employed, and a lot of them even walked to work, they lived in the south Scranton area. So, my grandmother had a little bread store, in 1934. And the factory workers would come out and say, “Mrs. Smith, can we sit in your, sit here in the store and eat our lunch?” So, my grandmother literally, literally, took her kitchen table and put it there, and the workers would come in and sit around the table. Then she put two, then she put three, and she said, “I think we have something here.” So, it went from a bread store to a small little restaurant, a small little diner, and it just kept growing over the years. And in 1962, I think it was, the factories started to decline a little bit. And my father and my uncles got together and said we need to pick up the business somehow. And they decided that they were going to open then for dinner. They were originally just open for breakfast and lunch, basically to serve the factories. They even delivered to the factories. My father and my uncles would get out of school a little bit early during lunch and they’d take their little red wagons and fill them up with the sandwiches and coffee and go to the factories and make the deliveries. And so did my aunts as well. But, anyway, I think it was in 1962 they decided that they would start into the dinner business. And they took the living room portion of their home, of the homestead, and converted that into a dining area.

RW: Wow. That’s incredible.

KS: And then they expanded what was originally the kitchen of the homestead, they expanded that into the kitchen of the restaurant. And of course everyone was married at the time. Well, I shouldn’t say that, my uncle James wasn’t married at the time, and my Aunt Calista, we used to

call her Aunt Tootsie, she, at the age of, I believe, maybe 13 or 14, was in a sleighing accident, she was hit by a truck and she was invalid, in the wheel chair, for the rest of her life. And they made accommodations where she lived actually above the restaurant. And my uncle James eventually married and she, my Aunt Toots, stayed there the rest of her life, she was actually the bookkeeper, and she was the boss of everybody in the entire family. And so she lived up there and they had the dining room downstairs, and then it just kind of progressed from there. Eventually we put on another dining room, and it just continued to grow until it actually closed in 2010, I think.

RW: Were they politically active at all? Did they have time to be politically active at all?

KS: It's funny, yes and no; it was that institution, I'll call it – not a restaurant, but an institution, because it truly was in the Scranton area – but, that institution would draw every political leader or candidate in northeast Pennsylvania. Whether it be the local councilman, mayor candidate, United States Senator, we had the President's, Mrs. Roosevelt was at the restaurant and the homestead. It was an amazing place. I always said that the political people came to the restaurant because they knew that when they came they would see the bread and butter people of northeast Pennsylvania, or Scranton area, more specific. And I actually saw this personally, where Bill Scranton, Governor Bill Scranton, was sitting at the counter in the diner, and there was a guy next to him that barely had enough money to pay for his coffee. So, you had, when you look at the economic rung of the ladder, you had the highest to the lowest. But it didn't matter; everybody meshed together. It was a great place where, particularly the blue collar

worker, came in the morning, and had their coffee and maybe an egg sandwich, and off they would go. At lunch time, it'd be the same thing, the factory workers would come in. At dinner, it was families that came. And there were the moms, the dads, the children, the grandparents. So, we had the opportunity to serve three, even four, generations of families within that place. But, so, with respect to that, the political leaders, and those that wanted to be, would always come to the restaurant. It was understood that if you wanted to be seen, you go there, you shake hands, people will get to know you. So, was my family politically active? As far as seeking office, no. But they were always at the nucleus of it.

RW: Did those observations then, or influences, help you decide to become a Democrat then? Or was it just being mainly because of the dynamic in that district?

KS: Well, if you wanted to live in my family, you would be a Democrat. God forbid you should wake up one morning and say, I'm going to be an Independent, or I'm going to be a Republican. That's fine, but you're now homeless. Or worse. If anyone told me, even three years before I ran for political office, that I would be a State Representative, I would have told them they're crazy. It wasn't anything that I thought a lot about. I was very involved in the business, and it consumed a lot of my time, usually 16 hours a day, 18 hours a day. It was demanding. But there came a time when some people came to me and said, you know, we think that with your experience, you'd be a good representative. And so I threw my hat in the ring, and the rest is history.

RW: That was going to be my next question: what prompted you to run? Was there something that you saw going on? Your first campaign was against long-time incumbent.

KS: A 28-year incumbent, who, you know, was a nice gentleman, but I think in the end he became disconnected. There's an old saying down here, some become capitol rats, where they come here on Sunday night and they don't go home until Thursday night, and they're really not connected to their district. And it changes, you know, things change, and they become disconnected, and their constituency feels as if they're not being served. So, several people said to me, "Well, why don't you consider that?" And at first I said no, I can't do this. But through some consideration, I said I'll give it a shot, and went out and campaigned, and I remember my name-recognition when they did a poll, was at 90 percent.

RW: That helps.

KS: Which is, for a non-office poll, was really something. But having, once again, the 112th district is in south Scranton and in Dunmore, it encompasses south Scranton and in Dunmore, the Hill Section, and east Scranton, and those areas, I know a lot of people. And then in the North Pocono area, but there is a population that migrated from Dunmore into the North Pocono area, so I had name recognition there. And I had a lot of good help along the way, too. But, I also found that whether you're serving somebody an egg sandwich or a hamburger or a meatloaf dinner, it's much the same as serving them here in Harrisburg. Or home in the district office.

It's customer service; it's constituent service. And the needs are the same; people come to you in the restaurant, they need something, they need a service. Well it's the same thing in public service as a Representative. And that's why I like being a State Representative; you impact people's lives every single day. You know, it isn't often that people get to see the United States Congressman or a United States Senator, but they know when the chips are down, that if their Representative is doing the job, they can have access to that individual. And as I've always told my staff, you know, when a constituent comes through the door, their problem may seem minor to you, or trivial to you, but to them, at that moment in that day, it's the biggest concern that they have. So, you address it in that manner. And that's what I went by, and even at the restaurant, long before even considering, a political life, people would come to me and say, you know, "My husband's out of a job, can you help him?" Or, "My daughter needs to get into this school, can you help?" Or, you know, "We need this done for the city, can you help us?" For some reason, I was always asked those questions. Could I always help them? No. And even today, can you always help a person? No. But, when you really love people, and you have a true concern, you know, then you're going to carry that ball as far as you can.

RW: Going back to your first campaign, was there anything that you experienced that was completely not even on your radar, or, something that you didn't expect within the first campaign? And then, how did it follow suit the next couple campaigns?

KS: Well, I remember the first day I went out to door-knock. I did it from day one, and right up to the end. And although I've always enjoyed it, I remember the first day I went out, I was by

myself, I had my little palm cards, and I started in south side, I believe it was on Hemlock Street, and I started going door to door and knocking, “Hi,” and introducing myself, and as it turns out, particularly in south Scranton, I knew the vast majority of the people, and many of them would say to me, “What are you doing? What? Why?” So I, you know, and then I started to say to myself, “What am I doing? Why am I doing this? Am I crazy?” But, I just continued to move on, and as I moved on, then people started to say, “Hey. That’s a good idea. Yeah, we appreciate that.” And then it seemed like this tidal wave just came and started to come right behind me, and every door that I knocked on I got a little more confidence. And I also found out that when you’re running for political office that the vast majority of the public, they don’t have any filter when they speak to you; they feel like they can say anything to you, and whether it offends you or not, they’re going to let you have it. So, it’s been interesting, but always, always, a lot of fun. And I said, the day this isn’t fun, is the day I say, that’s it. Or the day I can’t help somebody, then it’s over. So, it’s been a great ride, and I’ve enjoyed it. It’s been challenging, and you know, you really grow in the office. From the first door you knock until the last door. I remember going to one house, and at this point my campaign manager was with me, and we were going door-to-door and he had the list, and I go to open the gate, and these four pit bulls come to the gate and start barking and growling and I look at my campaign manager and he looks at me and he says “Well, how bad do you want the vote?” Needless to say, I didn’t go through the gate.

RW: Yeah. Sure. Now, recently, reapportionment has affected that district a little bit. It’s taken away some of the Scranton area and moved into some of the surrounding areas.

KS: Right. Which, at this time, it's still in question. Basically what at the end of the day is probably going to happen is Dunmore will stay intact. It'll still be East Mountain, east Scranton, Hill Section, but some of south side will split off. And the city, the downtown part of the city of Scranton, will split off into the 113th. And then, North Pocono will no longer be part of the 112th District. But that'll force the 112th into the mid-valley area, which is interesting.

RW: Does that change the dynamic or the political makeup at all?

KS: Well, it actually becomes more Democratic. It becomes, I believe, it goes to almost 75 percent, Democratic. So, it'll be even more so a Democratic stronghold.

RW: You talked a little bit about some of the types of issues that you received in the district or here in Harrisburg. I know a lot of representatives take on some of the district office work here in Harrisburg, or some just do it solely in the district. How did your district office or your office here in Harrisburg handle those requests?

KW: It was a team effort. A lot of conversation between the district office and my office here in Harrisburg and I think that works best. With the district office, I'll bring it back to day one: my original chief of staff, LeeAnn Munley, she didn't come from a political background either. She was actually a school teacher at St. Paul's Elementary School. And she interviewed for the job, and I hired her, and I remember day one, I looked at her, and she looked at me, and I said,

“Now what do we do?” And it wasn’t long, all of a sudden the phone starts ringing, and you never look back. And you don’t have time to look back, because the need is just absolutely tremendous. Whether it be senior citizens, whether it be a PennDOT issue, it could be a local zoning issue, or, you know, state law, it’s a multitude of things. You wear many hats. Just like you do in business, you wear many hats, the same thing as a Representative. But, I could tell you, LeeAnn Munley and myself, we grew in that position together. And here in Harrisburg, my first legislative assistant, first LA, was Sharon Stepp and she was terrific. I remember meeting her the first time; it was at a fundraiser, campaign rally, for myself. And we met, we spoke, we hit it off pretty well in the beginning, and she was terrific, actually phenomenal. She’s still employed here in the Capitol, but she moved on. She was a great LA. And both Sharon Stepp and LeAnn Munley had a great relationship, so although it’s two different worlds, they made sure, we all made sure as a team effort, that it became one. I remember the story, I believe it was February, so early in office, two months, and I’m in the district office, and the phone rings, and this woman says, “Yes, can I speak to the Representative?” And so they said I can, line one. So, I get on the phone, it’s an older woman, and she said “Is this Representative Smith?” I said, “Yes, it is.” “Well, two years ago, I had my roof repaired. And there’s water leaking from my roof into my living room. What are you going to do about it?” So help me God. John McGurl, who was a legislative assistant in the district office, I said, “John, can I see you in my office?” So, he comes in and he says, “What can I do for you?” I said, “Go home, get changed, put boots on, and work clothes, you’re going up on a roof.” I had another woman call, it was in the summer, and she said, “I just got a call from the borough; they’re going to fine me if I don’t cut my grass, if I don’t clean the yard and trim the hedges.” And she said, “I don’t have a lawnmower, I’m a single mom.” So, it turns out, I went to school with this girl and she says, “Is

there anything you can do for me?" So, I got one of my legislative assistants and I had two summer interns at the time. And I said, "Well, boys, you're going to cut grass, and cut the hedges." And they did. And I don't know if that's right or if that's wrong, but as far as I'm concerned, that's public service. These people like that older woman that called who was in need, and this single mom that was in need, would they ever vote for me? I don't know. It's irrelevant. It's somebody in need. Here's another thing. I had a, this was heartbreaking: I had a young mother come to the office one day, and she had two children with her, you know, probably like four and six years old. And you could tell when they came in that they were sick. And she came in and she said, "I need your help. My children are sick, and we don't have any health care. And I said, "Alright, sit down, we can help you." And she's crying. And you know, here in Pennsylvania we have the CHIP program, which is a great program. And I said, "We're going to get them signed up for CHIP." And we did: by the end of the day, they were all set to go. And I could tell that she wasn't feeling well, either. And I said, "You need to get to the doctor's," and she said, "Well, I'm just concerned about the kids." And I went over to my desk and I pulled out my check book and I wrote her a check, I mean, just me, personally. And I said, "Here, take this, use it for the doctor's, use it for food, do whatever you have to do. Take care of the children. Get better." This is what you do as a Representative, because they're the people that you serve: the people. That's how you impact a person's life every single day. Is it about the vote? No. I would bet that that woman wasn't even registered to vote. But does that, does that influence my helping her or not? Get it done.

RW: Alright. Great Stories. I want to go back to, you touched on a little bit, your first day or first couple days in office. What did you think, coming here to Harrisburg, on Swearing-In day, seeing the Capitol, that whole experience? What were your thoughts on that?

KS: It's overwhelming. You know, when I reflect back, I think that a lot of Representatives that come here, they have prior political service. Whether they be mayors, county commissioners, former legislative aides to Representatives, so they understand the process a little bit. I didn't have that luxury. I learned by the seat of my pants, if you will. And you come here and you walk into that chamber, and it's so overwhelming. And I thought to myself, holy cow, what am I doing here? And I thought, if these people ever figure out who I am, they'll throw me out. I just felt, in a sense, so inept, because I didn't have that political background. And Swearing-In day, I don't know if it's a story to tell, but Swearing-In day, my very first vote was to elect a Republican Speaker of the House.

RW: I was going to touch on that.

KS: Dennis O'Brien [State Representative, Philadelphia County, 1977-1980, 1983-2008], who's a terrific, terrific Representative, and a great guy.

RW: Very unusual circumstance.

KS: Very unusual.

RW: I think one of the first times that's ever happened.

KS: Yes. You know, right off the bat, bang, and I remember going home, and a friend of mine said, "Well, congratulations, your very first vote was for a Republican. Well done." But also I remember that on Swearing-In day, I had two busloads of people come down, two. And poor Sharon Stepp, my LA down here, I don't think that she thought it was going to be like 56-person bus. And I thought, maybe she thought it was like minibuses? No. We can't have that. So, there's two huge buses here and it unloads and we set up to have lunch served to my family and friends over in the State Museum, and actually I never even got to eat that day with them, because of the election of the Speaker of the House. And it was prolonged that day, it's usually ceremonial, but that day it was prolonged, so it was just overwhelming. And when the day was done, Sharon looked at me and she said, "Is every day going to be like this?" I said, "Not as long as my family doesn't show up."

RW: Now, you came in at a time where there was numerous new Representatives, sort of a wave of reform, they called it.

KS: Yes, one of the largest classes.

RW: One of the largest classes, right. I want to read a quote from you from the newspaper from 2006, so this is right after you got elected in November, you said you, “came here on the level of reform, wanting to educate yourselves to get to know who you’re voting for, to know what you’re voting for, and to know the ideas and ideals of the people you’re working with.” Do you feel now that that era of reform has occurred or are we still in the midst of that?

KS: Reform has come a long way here in Harrisburg. The message was sent, and of course, it started with the midnight pay raise. And that era, I could tell you that era is gone. It’s over, and never to return, thankfully. You know, like me personally, and this is only me, I’m only speaking of myself, you know, I had the opportunity to take a state car. Well, I said from day one, I’ll drive my own car to-and-from Harrisburg. Today, that car has 132,000 miles on it.

RW: Right.

KS: I’m on my second transmission. But that’s what I did. I didn’t take per diems, you know, when I first got here I didn’t even know what a per diem was and then when I figured it out, I said no, I’m not going to take per diems, which is set by the IRS. It’s the standard set by the IRS. I said I’ll submit my receipts of actual expenses, that’s what I’m going to do. So I started, me personally, and then I could see legislatively, that there has been a lot of reforms as to

bringing sunshine, bringing the light of day to the process here in Harrisburg and the lawmaking. Is it perfect? No, not yet. Probably never will be, but it has come a long way. And you know, I have to honestly say that what I did find down here is that there are a lot of good people trying to do the right thing here, whether you're talking about State Representatives or State Senators. The vast majority, they just want to do the right thing. They just want to serve the public. And when I watch this broadcast media or the print media, and the negativity that they go on with, I could tell you, I'll speak of our area, it's almost like a game to them. And I know these are tough times, and when the economy becomes difficult, the general public looks to blame somebody. So, who do you blame? You blame your elected official, whether it be a county commissioner or a State Representative. It doesn't matter. Or a mayor, whoever it may be. You look to blame somebody. And that's okay, I understand that. But see, today's news media, where it's 24/7 – they have to have news – they fail to report the news. They create the news today. And I think that's wrong, because everything is sensationalized. At the end of the day, they're only hurting government and they're only hurting our areas to which we live. And I've said this for a long time now, as long as they keep up with that negativity and that venom and that hateful type of media, you're not going to get good people to step up and say I can do the job. You're going to dilute that pool. I see it on the local level, to where I live; people say whether it be a school director or a council person, why would I want to take that abuse? On the state level, I hear it all the time. Why? So the only print media in our area can have a field day with us, because they don't like the state legislature? But yet, years ago they had a family member run for the state legislature who lost, and ever since then, they never like the state legislature. Or broadcast media, that's looking to fill that 24/7, and you know, it's just not a good thing for our democracy.

So, we need to do better. But with respect to reform, we've come a long way. Still have to keep moving forward. With that in mind, we've done fairly well.

RW: On your first session that you were here, was there anyone that took you aside and mentored you or showed you what to do when you're here? Any members that took you under their wing?

KS: Good question. Good question. I have had the great fortune of living for the past six years at 1616 Green Street, here in Harrisburg. Now, that is my place of residence, here in Harrisburg. I will describe it to you by telling you this story. My family came down to help me move into my room at 1616 Green Street, it's three floors, there's nine of us that live in the house, and everybody has their own bedroom. So, I remember my mother got out of the car and she got to the foyer of the house, and she looked at me and she said, "Get me gloves." So, she comes up and we all chipped in and got my bed made and run the sweeper and all she kept saying all day was, "Oh my, oh my." So, finally, we're leaving and we're standing in the middle of the sidewalk and she looks at me and she said, "Don't ever bring me here again." That was the alpha and the omega of any of my family showing up at 1616 Green Street. I could tell you, and I will tell the public, that we do not live in the lap of luxury here. Having said that, the eight guys, there's nine guys total, the eight guys that I live with, if I had to go pick eight other individuals right now, it would be those eight people. And I have Representatives from Philadelphia, we have Representatives from Pittsburgh and that area, and of course northeast Pennsylvania, and so many of them had many years of service here in Harrisburg. One of the,

one of my classmates that I came in with, Mike Carroll, [Michael Carroll; State Representative, Luzerne and Monroe Counties, 2007-present] from Luzerne County, lives in Avoca, we came in together. Now he had experience, he was John Yudichak [State Representative, Luzerne County, 1998-2010; State Senator, Carbon, Luzerne and Monroe Counties, 2011-present], who's now in the Senate, John Yudichak, he was his chief of staff. And so, Mike had a little bit of background, and knowledge, but he and I, we shared the same office together when we came in. We both live on the second floor in this house, his bedroom is right next to mine, so we spend a tremendous amount of time together. But he and I became very close and he had a lot of knowledge, so I gained a lot from him. But every individual in that house, Bill Keller [William F. Keller; State Representative, Philadelphia County, 1993-present] from Philadelphia, Paul Costa [State Representative, Allegheny County, 1999-present] from Pittsburgh, and Tim Solobay [Timothy J. Solobay; State Representative, Washington County, 1999-2010; State Senator, Allegheny, Beaver, Greene, Washington and Westmoreland Counties, 2011-present] who's now in the Senate from Washington County, and Brandon Newman [State Representative, Allegheny County, 2011-present] who's from Washington County now took over for Tim, a bright young Representative and he's a lawyer, and that kid, that young kid will be a United States Senator or a Supreme Court Justice someday. So, we have the spectrum of individuals there. I would say that at the end of the day, they were my mentors. They helped me to grow. They helped me to understand the process. If I had a question, I could go to any of them at any time. Whether it be legislatively, or what we do in the district office, and how to do it. That's a great advantage to be able to do that. So they, right there, they are my mentors; my peers and my mentors.

RW: Generally, we ask a question pertaining to camaraderie amongst the caucuses. What have you noticed with that? How do the members from each party get along, either within, inside of work, or outside of work?

KS: From what I understand, there's less of that coming together today. Let me say this first, what I have seen six years here in Harrisburg, that we seem to be governing more to the extreme left and to the extreme right, anymore, and I think that certainly adds to the divide. My personal feeling is you don't govern from the extreme left and the extreme right, you govern from the middle and governing is all about compromise. There are numerous people that understand that here. And if they don't in the beginning they do in the end, understand that. You have to reach across that aisle. And there's a lot of good people on the other side of the aisle that are willing to work with you, whether you approach them or they approach you. You open that door, that door of welcome, then things start to happen. If you're going to put yourself in the trenches and say, look, you're going to see it my way or no way, then at the end of the day, you're just going to spin your wheels and you're not going to have anything positive happen for the people of the Commonwealth. But I've also seen, at night, on occasions, we'll get together, you know, whether it be a holiday party or a karaoke night or whatever it may be, you know, that same guy that you were debating on the floor today, or woman, that you were debating all of a sudden, they're singing a song or they're having a drink or they're having a couple laughs with you. So, at the end of the day, most people can come together and understand that we do have to work together. And there are good people on both sides of the aisle. You know, I don't want to pick out a certain population, but you know, in this day and age, 2012, you hear a lot about the Tea Party. So, maybe someday my grandchildren or great-grandchildren will watch this video and

say, what's the Tea Party? But the Tea Party seems to be that certain population. We have it in the House, we have it in the House of Representatives here in Pennsylvania, that they're not here to compromise. They are that extreme part of the Republican Party that's it's almost like they don't like government; they almost want to shut government down, you know, because they say it's too big, it's too expensive. That's debatable. But let's at least begin the debate. Get in the game. But that's the extreme that I don't think is healthy for our Commonwealth, and for democracy and these United States.

RW: Let's switch gears a little bit and talk about your committee experience. You've sat on a number of committees during the six years that you were here. Talk about some of the highlights that you've had within your committees.

KS: It's funny how the committees are a direct reflection of who I am and who I have been my entire life. From day one, I was on the Health Committee. Well, in the beginning it was Health and Human Services, it was one, but particularly Human Services, I've always been about Human Services. The Health Committee. Aging Committee. Education Committee. I was on Labor, of course, coming from northeast Pennsylvania, labor is very important. And in the beginning I was on Children and Youth. Well, back home, I chair the Youth Council for Lackawanna County, I've done that I think for 11 or 12 years. I sit on the Workforce Investment Board for Lackawanna County, which helps dislocated workers get back into the work field, mainly through education or whatever it may be, and it's about creating jobs. I sit on the Scranton and Lackawanna County Human Development Agency Board, which has a lot of

programs for economically disadvantaged families, and it also has a lot of programs for seniors. So, I don't know if it was by accident or just good fortune, but I had the great experience of being on committees that I was able to serve on the committees through using my heart. And I was also able to use those committees from Harrisburg and bring them home to Lackawanna County. So, people have said to me, you know, you're here awhile now, why don't you look at being on a committee that helps you to raise money when you're campaigning, when you're up for reelection. I thought to myself, do I really want to do that? I need to serve with my heart, not with a purse. So, I've always stayed with the, if you will, the human services committee, because that's where I get my energy from.

RW: Talk about the dynamic of being in majority versus the minority, whether in the committee or within the body as a whole.

KS: Interesting. Right and I had the opportunity, the good fortune, of coming in in the majority. The day we came in, bang, we're in the majority. And with the majority, you can direct policy, legislation, and actually bills coming to the floor. So, although we didn't have the majority in the Senate, in the House, we were able to drive some good policies and bills to get it to the Governor's Office, it was Governor Rendell [Edward G.; Pennsylvania Governor, 2003-2011] when I came, so you know, being in that majority caucus room, it's busy, there's a lot of energy, and you feel like, well, you feel like you're driving the bus. And then all of the sudden you go from the majority to the minority and you're no longer in the majority caucus room in the main, right off the rotunda in the Capitol, now you're on the fourth floor, where it's you and the

pigeons, and you're not driving the bus, you're lucky if you're hanging onto the bumper, and you're not driving policy, you're not driving legislation. It may be a governing body, the majority might have a philosophical difference than you and you become frustrated by that because you want good legislation to help people of this Commonwealth and, you know, they just have a different perspective. Hopefully at the end of the day, we're here to help people. And then, coupled with the fact that during these years the economy really slid and the revenue generated here on the state has declined. So, we see a lot of cutbacks to the different human development programs throughout the state, and that's frustrating. So, it becomes a collision of two worlds when you have a bad economy; the revenue dries up, but yet the need grows. So, you know, you have those calls from the constituents, "we need, help," and you can't. And coupled with the fact that now you're in the minority, and you know, you call to get somebody, "I need to help this senior citizen," and you call, and there's no phone call back. Then you become frustrated and you feel helpless, because you can't help that individual. So, that's where I see the difference going from the majority to the minority, but you still got to, hey, at the end of the day, you still have to fight the fight, and that's what we do.

RW: How about the relationship between the House and Senate and the Governor's Office? Maybe in terms of talking about the whole budget process, how does that work?

KS: Well, with respect to the House and the Senate, there's a saying here in Harrisburg: The Senate, where all good bills go to die. It just seems as though, I don't know, there's a cog in every wheel. The Senate sometimes can be real difficult. There's different philosophies as to

why that is, but it's part of the checks and balances. We have a Governor now that's quite different than Governor Rendell. Governor Corbett [Tom; Governor of Pennsylvania, 2011-present] is a nice man, but he's much different. Governor Rendell had a lot of charisma, he was always around, sometimes you wanted to tell him to shut up. But, you know, he was a guy that you loved to be around. He really, as I said, he had that charisma. And I'll tell you a true story: I was here, it was in my first term, I believe it was, we were in the first budget process and I was going down to Strawberry Square to go get a salad for lunch. I was halfway down, and my LA Sharon Stepp called me and she said, "Ken, the Governor's Office just called and he wants to meet with you." And you know, as a freshman, it's kind of like being called to the Principal's Office, like, what did I do now? Well, and I was on the Education Committee at the time. Of course, still am, but anyway, and he was a great, great advocate for education, terrific. So, and he believed, and he was right, that if we invest in our children today, that we'll see the fruits of the labors tomorrow, with respect to the growth of Pennsylvania and job creation. So anyway, so I turned right around, went to the Governor's Office. It was hot and I was like sweating, not just because of the heat but because of nerves, and I go. There's myself, and the Governor, one on one. And he said, "Ken, I just wanted to talk to you about a bill in education, and it's going to mean a lot to the budget, and I want to make sure we're on the same page. And can you support it?" "Oh, yes, Governor, I'm supporting that," and we're talking and all of a sudden we went from that to the Philadelphia Eagles, and to the Phillies, and I went from being real tense to just myself and the Governor, just he and I hanging out together. He was that kind of guy. Governor Corbett, he's a prosecutor, from the law background; a little different. He doesn't have as much charisma, but he puts his nose to the grindstone and he's working hard. But just two different types of individuals, you know?

RW: How do you feel about the types of technological innovations that you've seen? It hasn't been all that long since computers have been on the House floor, every member gets a Blackberry, you're constantly in contact. Social media is out there.

KS: It's unbelievable.

RW: How does that –

KS: You have to understand, I came from literally cutting roast beef and flipping hamburgers, to I'm sitting on the floor of the House. So help me God. The first day I sit on the floor of the House, and there's a computer in front of me, I didn't know how to turn it on. I thought, what am I going to do? And everyone around me, of course, I'm sure there was others just like myself, but everyone seemed to be, you know, they're looking for this House Bill, that Senate Bill, and this Resolution. I'm thinking, what do I do with this? But sure enough, you go through the motions and you learn a little bit, a little bit, and I think about now with the Blackberries, I get my emails right there, I mean right to the minute. And my schedule is right there, and it beeps and it tells me where I have to go, and it's incredible. That's the upside. The downside is its 24/7; you just never get away from it. As of two years ago, they put me on Facebook. Me. Facebook. Are you kidding me? Social media? If anyone ever told me that, once again, I would tell them that you're crazy. But, now I have like 2,000 friends on Facebook. And it's amazing. There are some positives to it, but you know, I think about this: one of the most successful

businessmen in Pennsylvania, I happen to know personally, [it's] 2012, he does not carry a cell phone with him. He does not carry a cell phone. He said, "When I get back to the office, if somebody called, I'll get back to them. I'll get there." And I think to myself, well if he doesn't need one, I don't need one. But here I am, you know, and constantly, whether you be on the phone or sending emails, and the truth of the matter is, your constituents fully expect to have access to you whether it be two o'clock in the afternoon on a Monday or its Saturday night at eight pm, or its Sunday morning. I'll tell you a quick story, it's not social media, but it was a Sunday morning, and I was still in my first term, and I went to mass at St. Mary's. And I go in and I kneel down and I'm saying my prayers, and I get a [tap] on the shoulder, and I look up and there's a woman standing there. "Can I help you?" And she said, "Yes, I don't want to bother you, but I need your help." And I said, "Okay, can it wait until after mass?" "Oh, sure," she said, "I'll see you after mass." But once again, whether it be person to person, or through today's technology, its 24/7 access. So, you got to take the good with the bad. But I like that. I have to say that I like that, and it also helps that, you know, if I'm home at night, and I'm thinking about a certain piece of legislation, that I can bring it up. Right here, on my Blackberry. I don't have to wait until the next morning. I could make a couple notes, so that the next morning I hit the ground running. Or I can make a phone call and leave a message for my LA or chief of staff and say, here's what I want, boom, and they're on it.

RW: Well, let's talk about that, some of your legislation that you've worked on over the course of your time here. What are some of the ones that, either successfully or unsuccessfully, have stood out to you?

KS: Well, the first piece of legislation that, through the help of Ed Staback [Edward; State Representative, Lackawanna and Wayne Counties, 1985-2012] from Lackawanna County, and we call him the “dean of the delegation,” he’s actually retiring, and he brought a piece of legislation to me that would be a big help to the city of Scranton that would allow the city to transfer a piece of property from the state to the city that would allow the creation of the intermodal system in downtown Scranton. An eight million dollar project and it would take all the mass transit, whether it be the buses, the private buses, the public buses, taxi cabs, and the train, the train that eventually, in years down the road, hopefully they’ll say, “Oh yeah,” but the train that’s hopefully going to go from here to New Jersey and to New York, would come into this intermodal system. So, all the mass transit would come in to one area, and it’s on the western end of Lackawanna Avenue. Now, so I was able to do that piece of legislation successfully, get it through the House, get it through the Senate, the Governor signs it. It was great. Locally, they’ve run into some problems there, but they’re making steps now and that’s going to come to reality in the very, very near future. So, like you could see how that, how you can, once again, impact people on a daily basis. I remember, I believe it was my second term; we did Smoke-Free Pennsylvania, which I was a cosponsor of that legislation. And, thank God, we were able to pass that. And now, you know, in restaurants and public places, you can’t smoke. I think it’s a step in the right direction. I remember coming home in the first weekend I was going out, I was driving by a bar and there was a group of people standing outside of this bar, and they’re all out there smoking, and I’m thinking, why are all these people outside? And then I thought, oh boy, we did that. I did that. I did that. I was a part of that process. And I sat on the Health and Human Services Committee, that was my committee, that’s the committee that

it came through. You know, so right there, you're the guy that's saying, yes or no, whether to bring this legislation from the committee to the floor. You know, so –

RW: The direct effect that you've had, right there.

KS: That's right. You know, right, boom. And some of the things that I was able to cosponsor with respect to education, helping our children with education, Pre-K Counts, with kids in pre-kindergarten, all day kindergarten, or full day kindergarten they call it. Some of the legislation we've done for higher education and protecting students as freshmen and some of the things that they need to do. I just had a piece of legislation, we were so close, that I was the prime sponsor of, this session, and hopefully the ball will be picked up in next session. It would protect seniors in nursing homes from sexual predators. And it was actually, you know, here's something you wouldn't even think of; it was brought to me by a local law firm in the city of Scranton, and this attorney said I have a client who, this gentlemen put his mother in a nursing home, and she was there for a period of time, and his mother, who was in the nursing home, was actually sexually assaulted by another resident of the nursing home. What they didn't realize was, this guy, this individual, was a sexual predator. And whether you're 25 or you're 75, you're still a sexual predator and the danger is there. And this piece of legislation, which I thought was simple, that before being admitted to a nursing home or a care facility, that just right there in the office, you go into a national database, you know, from the Megan's Law, the national database, that would check to see if you have a history or if you're a convicted sexual predator. And the language was relatively simple, and then we've had all kinds of opposition and we weren't able to get that

through. Our leadership, my Democratic leadership, wanted that. Frank Dermody [State Representative, Allegheny County, 1991-present], the Minority Leader in the House, he also had a similar bill, and he said, you know, why don't you run with this, but we ran into opposition, and then we just ran out of time. So, unfortunately, I feel bad that I couldn't get that done.

RW: Is that something you foresee getting back on --

KS: Someday, sure, it'll happen, because with the aging of the Baby Boomers, the population of seniors are only going to grow, and once again, you know, these people have this illness, and they're sexual predators. I truly believe in the twilight of life, that you deserve to be protected from something like that.

RW: Certainly. You talked about a lot of various places where legislative ideas can come from. You talked about law firms, and lobbyists, and from leadership. Did that surprise you when you started here, that it's not just necessarily your ideas that become law but you can gain ideas from all over?

KS: Absolutely. And you'd better be open to that. I found that the best ideas for legislation come from your district, the need there. But you look at Pennsylvania, with respect to districts. I always say that Pennsylvania is a direct reflection of the United States of America. Because in Pennsylvania, in the southeast, you have big city Philadelphia. Out west, you have big city

Pittsburgh. Here in the northeast, you have midsized cities, and then in the T, or central Pennsylvania, you have rural Pennsylvania. It's the same in the United States, you know. So, it is a very diversified legislature and the needs are diversified as well. What works in Philadelphia doesn't necessarily work in the northern tier of Pennsylvania. What works out in Pittsburgh doesn't necessarily work in Lackawanna County. So, a lot of times you bring legislation to the House and you think, well this is a need, this is easy, we can do this, and then all of a sudden somebody from central Pennsylvania says, "Well, wait a minute. Do you realize what type of disadvantage or what this is going to do to us financially?" And, oh boy. So, then you start the process of negotiating, debating, amendments, and hopefully moving the process forward. But it is amazing the type of legislation that comes, and the process of it. You know, when you talk about Smoke-Free Pennsylvania, that type of legislation that really changes the entire Commonwealth, that's impressive.

RW: You talked a little bit about being a part of the northeastern delegation, what type of role do they play, and are you a part of any other informal type of caucuses here?

KS: Well, there are other types of caucuses, like the fun things where you might have an Italian caucus or an Irish caucus where you celebrate the Irish, you know, St. Patrick's Day, they bring in the Irish step dancers. The Italian caucus, they put on a big meal one night, you know, around this time, around Columbus Day. You know, they're the fun things. And then you'll have the Early Childhood caucus that really takes a look at the legislation that's going to impact early childhood, or Pre-K Counts or something to that effect. So, you know, there's many different –

there's a Sportsmen's caucus, where they might all go out to a shooting range or something. So, and once again, when you look at the different caucuses and the people that belong to it, you could almost pick out where they live, you know, the Sportsmen, maybe their from central Pennsylvania, whereas the southeast they'll have a different type of caucus, you know.

RW: About the delegation, how do they play off, like, the southeast delegation or the southwest, the Allegheny delegation, it seems like the dynamic is that the members talk about issues with their area, but it also seems like there are voting blocs sometimes.

KS: Oh, no question about it. And depending on your chairman, for example, right now, the chairman of the northeast delegation is Neal Goodman [State Representative, Schuylkill County, 2003-present], from Schuylkill County. And maybe every two months, we'll get together and we'll say, here's a piece of legislation, where do you think this brings us? Are we going to support it as a group? Or there might be a piece of legislation where a member in the northeast delegation will say, you know, "We need to write a letter to the governor," or "We need to write a letter to Congress." Well, okay, but what does that letter do? Does it only help you in your city, or does it help the delegation as a whole? So, legislatively that's the way it works. But then when it comes to election time and electing our Democratic Leadership, you see the different caucuses get together – the northeast delegation caucus, for example, they will come to us as a group and say, "Alright, I'm going to run for Whip. Can I have the backing of the entire delegation? Is that possible?" And then we'll talk about it. When you get something like, the southeast delegation, where you have all that population in Philadelphia, that becomes a very

influential delegation. Not that the northeast isn't, I mean, it's rather large, but you get into the southeast or out west in Allegheny county, that area, and you're talking some major population.

RW: How about in terms of seniority, then, of the membership? How have you seen that progress in your time here? I mean, being here three terms, it's sort of, you're not a freshman certainly, anymore.

KS: Well, now you're starting to gain that momentum and that confidence. You know, once again, coming back to the media, and this is where I think, the media is negligent in their duties to the area to which we live. And I'm only going to speak of the northeast. Whether it be broadcast or print, you know, they talk about Representatives that are there so long, and they're entrenched, and well, like it or not, whether you're talking about Washington or you're talking about the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, it's based on seniority. Whether that be right or wrong, it is what it is. And unfortunately, in northeast Pennsylvania, we have lost a tremendous amount of seniority. And at the end of the day, that means that our voice is not as strong as either, you know, another place in Pennsylvania, or another state throughout the United States. And in the northeast, they put a great negative spin on seniority. And it's only my opinion, but I think sometimes, I think it's a game that they'll beat up on a person with seniority, instead of saying, look at the positives, here's what he or she did to help create jobs, to help economically, what they've done in the region, where they're going, what the possibilities are. You know, instead, they play the game and they hurt, they hurt the process, and they hurt the region. So, seniority is important. And right now, I'm Subcommittee Chairman on Aging, Subcommittee

Chairman on Education. That means something. Guess what, the next step is, and you know, if I were able to stay here longer, probably within two more terms, I'd be a full chairman. You know what that means? You know what that means back home? The problem is, do you think the media back home cares? Nuh-uh, because it's just about them. It's self-serving to that media. I'm sorry, that's wrong. We're here to serve. And I know, in my case, from day one I came here to serve and I'll serve until the last day, because I care. It's not about selling the next newspaper; it's not about selling the next commercial.

RW: What can you do in your position, then, to try to get the correct message out to tell the people back home, this is what we're doing here, this is a good thing. How do you battle against that?

KS: I've done that through newsletters, here in the caucus, the Democratic Caucus, newsletters saying, here's the legislation that I've sponsored, here's what we're doing. And it's good. And it goes to all the Democratic constituents in the district. Otherwise, it's very difficult to get that word out. I've done town hall meetings, whether it be about an issue on senior citizens, healthcare or sportsmen. One of the biggest town hall meetings I had was a sportsmen's meeting about hunting issues, and maybe Sunday hunting or small game hunting. I'm telling you, I had it up in the North Pocono area – I had it at the North Pocono Senior Center – you couldn't get another person in that place. It was phenomenal. It was great. And I had a person there from Fish and Game, very insightful, and a lot of information. I had a health fair at the Dunmore Community Center. Well, at first we were just going to have it in the Senior Center, but it got so

big that we had to put it in the gymnasium. And we had hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of people come through. And afterwards, they served them a simple lunch, like a boxed lunch type of thing, and they came in and they got their blood pressure taken, and have their eyes cared for, and information on Medicare and Medicaid and the different services and different, maybe nursing homes, Area Agency on Aging, Lackawanna County, did a great job, but all of that information is put out to the people. But it's hard to get, you know, I've had town hall meetings that I didn't get a good turnout. Because I would call, for example, the daily newspaper, and say, "I'm going to have a town hall meeting. Will you put it in the paper so that the people know about it?" "Well, if we have room." Maybe they put it in and maybe they didn't. Or instead of putting it on page three they put it on page 12 and it's this big. So, it's difficult. I use robocalls that I could actually do right here in the capitol, and that would go out to my constituents and say, "Hi, this is Representative Ken Smith calling on October 12, we're going to have a town hall meeting concerning X." That type of thing helps. So, once again, put it out on Facebook, social media, put it on my House website, we can do that too. So, you know, little bits here and there, it works.

RW: One place we didn't even touch on was federal and state relations. What have you seen about that in terms of how the federal government works with the state government on any number of issues?

KS: Well, we have seen that through difficult economic times, which we're going through right now, a lot of funding that would start at the federal level would be cut and then so down on the

state level you didn't get as much dollars. So, then the state level would make cuts and then of course the local level, your counties, then they would get cut, so you know it becomes that trickledown effect. For example, WIA, the Workforce Investment Act, to which I've been involved – I was only supposed to be involved for two years, I think it's like 14 now – but, I've seen over the years where the federal government would cut that, and that goes from the feds to the state, down to the local level. And I've seen great, great programs just disappear, literally overnight, and a dislocated worker, one day they were making progress, trying to get back into the work field, all of a sudden you have to go in and say to this person that their program's been cut, see ya. So that, with respect to that type of relationship, on a personal level, or I should say a day-to-day relationship between the feds and the state, we have almost daily contact with our Congressman. Now, once again, having Congressman Paul Kanjorski [Pennsylvania Congressman, 1985-2010] he had like 26 years in Congress. Many times, people, particularly seniors, would come to us and say, here's my problem. Well, I know it's a federal problem and I'm not going to sit there and say to the senior, well that's not my problem, you go see your Congressman.

RW: Sure.

KS: I will explain to them, "Alright, this is a federal issue. We'll work on this together." So, I'll find out what they need then I will call the Congressman – well, not the Congressman, but his office, or her office – and then go through the process. Once again, talk about seniority; we had Congressman Kanjorski, right? All of a sudden, he gets beat, he's gone. Now who do I go to? The guy that followed him, the Congressman that followed him was Lou Barletta [Mayor of

Hazelton, 2000-2010; Pennsylvania Congressman, 2011-present]. He doesn't even have an office in Scranton, he had no concern, and I'm not being critical, I'm just telling you, there was no one to call. If we did call that office, they'd say, well call Washington. Oh, okay. What, the Jefferson Memorial? Who do you want me to call? And we lost him, and then with this new redistricting, I thought we were going to get Tim Holden [Thomas Timothy Holden; Pennsylvania Congressman, 1993-2012], who was a 20-year incumbent. Now he's gone. You see, it's difficult, because now there's nobody to call because you don't have that seniority. You call somebody that's seasoned, they know boom, boom, boom, boom, they know who to call and get it done. I had a young girl, who was a student at the University of Scranton, and she was from, actually, what was previously like the Soviet Union, and she was in danger of being deported; her student visa was up. And her host mother came to me and said, "Can you help?" I'm thinking this is way over my head. But at the time, Arlen Specter [U.S. Senator, 1981-2010] was our United States Senator, and of course, you know the influence he had. And I went to Andy, his local representative here, and I told him the situation, we saved that girl. She was able to stay here and get her degree. She had her student visa, because of the know-how and the seniority. You know, when the office of Arlen Specter picks up the phone that means something. So, you know, there's an example. We saved that girl, she got her degree, and she graduated. Tremendous success story. But you have to have that interaction.

RW: Sure.

KS: And it sure does help when you have seniority.

RW: You've talked about a lot of great stories during your time here. Do you have a fondest memory of serving here? Can you pinpoint one area?

KS: It's hard to say. I think the fondest memory would have to be, as a whole, the people that I got to know and love and become friends with. What an opportunity in life. You know, I remember, we were only here a short time in our first term, and Mike Carroll and myself, Representative Mike Carroll, we were going out for dinner, hamburger. We went out the front doors of the Capitol, we were walking down the steps, and he stopped. And he said to me, he looked at me and he says, "You know, Ken, if we never get reelected, we could always say that we had the opportunity to serve the people, as a Representative, in Pennsylvania. Like, how many get to do that? There's almost 13 million people in Pennsylvania. How many have the privilege and honor to serve in the state legislature?" So, it's been a great ride for me. But as a whole, just to grow relationships. As I said, I think about the relationship with my first chief of staff, LeeAnn Munley, and how we knew nothing, but yet, today we just grew into that. And there's so much confidence. My first LA here, Sharon Stepp, now she did have experience, and I still to this day call her the boss, because she would say to me, "Now, you're going to do this, you're going to do this, you're going to do that," and she'd make sure I did, and I made sure I did that too. Once again, the guys that I live with, when I go home, my family loves to hear the stories about the different things that we did, the different events that we went to, and we laugh, and you get to know their families. The people that you serve with, I think about some of the older gentlemen that have retired over the years, who I just, you know, when I came here I wasn't a young kid, but I was in my 40s, and I'm looking up to these guys. I felt like a little kid and they were my father, my grandfather. I just had so much respect for them, just as a whole.

And once again, to think of the way the media projects the legislature is almost criminal, because what they project is not true. There's good people here.

RW: Conversely then, any regrets?

KS: Well, I mean, not that I could control it, but I regret that some of the legislation that I sponsored, we couldn't get it over the goal line, you know? I regret not being able to finish some of the things that I started. But these are the conditions. As a friend of mine said to me one time, "Ken, we only rent these seats. We're only here for a short time, and the people decide how long we're here." I would have liked more time. And I said if I could have had, when I think about it, maybe two or three more terms, I would have said, that's enough. I probably completed what I wanted to do, but that wasn't to be. But any regrets? No. It's been too positive to think of a negative or a regret.

RW: What are some, an important lesson or a piece of advice that you would pass on to either a new member or someone looking to get into politics?

KS: Serve with your heart. If you are here because of your ego, if you are here on a self-serving agenda, you're going to be frustrated, and you're train's going to wreck, at the end of the day. Serve with your heart. Lead with your head. So that at the end of the day, you can leave this Commonwealth and its people a little better than what you found.

RW: Do you plan on staying active in politics? What's next for Ken Smith?

KS: I'm not sure. My fear – my entire life has been public service. And I say public service not necessarily as elected, but you know, once again, whether I'm serving them a hot hamburger sandwich, or I'm helping them with a senior citizen issue or helping somebody with a job, I see that as public service, voluntary or elected. I'm concerned that in my next life, or my next chapter of my life, that I'm not going to have that opportunity to continue to serve the public. Hopefully, those fears will be put to rest, but I don't know if I'll ever seek elected office again. Many people say, "You will, you will," but once again, when I think of the negativity of the media, when I think of those people that are self-serving, and had a different agenda, I don't know if I have the stomach anymore for it. You know, I could honestly say that if it comes to my head, I think, oh, I don't know. But I do want to continue to serve the public in some fashion. Hopefully, God will send me in that direction.

RW: Well, lastly then, in a few words, how would you like your term as a State Representative to be remembered?

KS: Somebody that always put the people first. I've had other Representatives say to me, with respect to whether it be a car or per diem or getting reimbursed on different expenses and I don't, "You're crazy." I'm not crazy; I'm not here to take, I'm here to give. And I just want people, whether it be tomorrow, five years from now, or two generations from now, to be able to look at

my time in the House of Representatives, I just want them to be able to say, “Here’s a guy that truly served the public. That came, served, and left and did the right thing.” That’s all I ask.

RW: Very good. I think that’s where we’ll conclude. I want to thank you so much for talking with us this morning.

KS: It was great to be here.