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forward to giving you your plaque so, Senator Bohlke, if you would come forward, thank you. (Applause)

SENATOR BOHLKE: Thank you. These past weeks all of us who are retiring have had to answer many, many questions. Former Senator Jan McKenzie talked to me last weekend and she said, well, what are you going to say? And I said, well, I really haven't thought about that. I think I'm trying to block that out. But in thinking about it, next month I'm going to have to do a speech and thinking about how I might base that speech I was...recalled something from Shakespeare and I had to, you would all expect, make it a little gender neutral, but it goes something like all...it goes exactly like except for one part: All the world's a stage and all the men and women merely players. They have their exits and their entrances, and each person, in their own time, serves many roles. And I said to Jan, I said, you know, when I think about it, it applies here in the Legislature, because this is the stage where we do the state's business and many of us here play many different roles, all at different times. Sometimes each of us here plays a leading role, whether it's your piece of legislation or the bill you've prioritized. At other times, you play a supporting role. The committee, I believe, and the committee work, they become the producers, and the Speaker, who I've had the pleasure of sitting behind me and giving me advice for quite a few years, is our great director. But each production or each stage work takes some backstage people also. Patrick, I think you're a great stage manager, with everyone else up here who tolerate late amendments being filed and wrong amendments being filed and being refiled. Certainly when you talk about props, the Pages, who present us all the things that we need and all the times I forgot my glasses this session, thank you. And then every production has someone who blocks the moves for a production. We thank the Red Coats for doing that for us, giving us direction where we're supposed to be, being a little forgiving that even after nine years someone walks out on Final Reading into the lobby. You've been tolerant and good. Thank you. But I would say the writers sometimes are the lobby, who bring us pieces of legislation; the editors, the Bill Drafters. Thank goodness for them. The critics who write the reviews, and that would be the press, and I think generally you just do a very, very good job, one that I can't understand how you can listen to