

*Will was on a whirl wind tour! —story told by Carmen*



This summer has gone by so fast. It seems like Will was gone more than he was home. As a Captain in the U.S. Army Reserves he spent nineteen days in Canada, twenty-nine at Ft. Rucker, and six in Ft. Hood.

In July when he was at Ft. Rucker his unit asked him to go to Uganda for a month for this humanitarian mission. He quickly called me and we discussed it, and prayed about it, and we felt it was the right thing to do. Will really enjoys serving his country and his state. He has said he has two of the best jobs to make a difference and help people. He and I agree that this is where God has called us and we continue to pray that God will give us clear direction on where he wants us to be.

Will had a great year in Jefferson City and he was fortunate to get 3 critical pieces of legislation passed. I know he was working hard on the things you care about.

House Bill 82 is a state tax exemption for retired Missourians. House Bill 82 removes the age requirement for the income tax exemption and increases the limits for a person who receives both the publicly funded retirement benefits and Social Security. The bill also creates an exemption for military retirement income. Beginning next year, Missouri will exempt fifteen percent of a retiree's military pension from state income tax. The exemption will increase by fifteen percent each year over the next six years until the entire military pension is exempted. This bill brings Missouri in line with other states in the Midwest which have tax deductions for military pensions. Will was extremely pleased to have passed a tax cut for retired Missourians.

The next two bills deal with sex offenders. A few years ago, Missouri passed Jessica's Law. After its passage, Will discovered that the state had no law prohibiting sex offenders from coaching little league sports. Needless to say, Will quickly crafted, and got passed, legislation to prohibit the worst sex offenders from coaching our children.

The other piece of legislation prohibits sexual offenders from being present or within 500 feet of public parks with playground equipment or a public swimming pool. Both provisions carry penalties up to a class D felony. This legislation was successfully included in HB 62 which was passed by the Missouri General Assembly and signed by the governor.

This year Will hosted about seventy people at his 48th Legislative District Day. I was fortunate to get to go this year. It was a lot of fun. His office organized a tour of the capital, Governors Mansion, and the Supreme Court. Will held a question and answer session with those who attended. I can tell Will really enjoys serving people and enjoyed the day seeing people from back home come visit. Next year District Day is April 14<sup>th</sup>. Please let Will or his office know if you would like to attend. I hope to see you there.