

Testimony for House Bill 2269

Representative Bower was a resident of McLouth, Kansas located in northeast Jefferson County which is in the 47th District.

Representative John Bower entered into politics in 1952 and was re-elected 11 times and served 24 years in the 47th District House of Representatives serving Jefferson and parts of Leavenworth Counties.

Representative Bower was opposed to liquor by the drink during his tenure in 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s. Up until his final days in the House he believed that most Kansans were in favor of prohibition and if given the chance they would vote to repeal legal liquor. He introduced a Bill to bring back prohibition. He knew it would not pass but it allowed a dialogue to get started.

Representative Bower served many years as chairman of the education committee and helped steer the State through the consolidation process along with reforming the way schools were structured.

Representative Bower took up issues that were not popular with his constituents but would stand his ground. Representative Bower was a leader in fighting for equal rights for minorities and fought the death penalty.

Representative Bower was active in his community and served as a mentor to previous Representatives in Jefferson County, Kansas

Most of Representative John Bower's life was spent as a farmer and a preacher.

We often honor past members of our House of Representatives who are still living. This Bill will honor a State Representative, who served his State, his District and his Community.

Representative Bower passed away June 18, 2012 at the young age of 100 years.