



Photos by Bill Clark/Roll Call

The rope and spurs used by Enzi's grandfather are displayed in his Russell Building office along with fishing lures given to Enzi by a man whose son died in a grain elevator accident. The lures were given to Enzi as thanks for his work strengthening Occupational Safety and Health Administration rules.

Of Family and Fossils, Enzi's Office Sports Both

OFFICE SPACE, from page 22
ing office in tribute to the Equality State's history.

In fact, Enzi, 64, found one while fishing in a Wyoming quarry. While looking for bugs to use as bait, Enzi came across a stone with an impression of a feather in it. Enzi donated the rare fossil — only two of its kind have ever been found, he says — to the University of Wyoming, which then loaned it back to the Senator to hang on his wall.

While Enzi's office is rich with Wyoming history, there is one piece that is unique to the Capitol. A tall coat rack, peppered with artifacts from his home state, sits to the right of the Senator's desk. Enzi says it was one of four that were made specifically for each of the entrances to the Russell Building when it opened in 1908. Senators used to

hang their coats and umbrellas on the rack before going about their daily business.

"When I was picking my furniture for my first office and I saw this with the clerk down there in the storeroom, I said, 'I'd like to have one of those.' He said, 'You and 99 other Senators.'"

As luck would have it, the clerk misplaced the Senator's couch. "My office manager, who had been here for 30 years, said: 'You can make it up to the Senator. You can get him one of those umbrella stands.' And they did! Then they found my couch and she wouldn't let them have the stand back."

Enzi's office also shows the important role that his family has played in his life.

By the door, there is a fishing rod that his grandfather gave to his grandmother as an anniversary gift. Hanging on the coat rack is

a papoose, a leather carrier made to hold an infant, that was given to the Enzis by a friend. Photos bedeck the Wyoming Senator's desk and a few mementos of his grandfather sit on a table.

"These are spurs my grandpa wore and a rope that he had," Enzi says, touching the rope. "He was a rancher, and most especially, he was my grandpa. He taught me to fish and hunt and all the good things."

Fishing appears to be a favorite Enzi family pastime. The Senator, who is expected to win his third term easily in November, prefers fly-fishing, but these days with his busy schedule he takes whatever kind of fishing he can get.

"I take a little travel rod with me in my suitcase and sometimes I get about an hour right beside the road.

"No self-respecting Wyomingite would fish right beside the road, but it's all the time I've got. I'll catch six or eight fish in an hour and then somebody recognizes me and has just a little problem they want me to solve," he says with a chuckle.

If there's one thing that's clear from a visit, the man loves his family and his home state of Wyoming.

"My office is a part of Wyoming here in D.C., so it needs to look and feel the part," he says. "I want my constituents to feel welcome and at home, and guests who aren't familiar with Wyoming to be able to get a feel for the state just by visiting."

Do you know of a uniquely decorated Capitol Hill office? Let us know about it at officespace@rollcall.com.

Staff-Driven Running Club Welcomes Marathoners

RUNNERS, from page 22
ning Club shirts — scarlet and gold, in a nod to the Marines who train them.

"Some of the newbies will wear shirts with their boss's name on them," said Chris Lu, a 17-time marathoner, pointing out that the club stays decidedly neutral on politics. "After a while, those T-shirts go away. The veterans don't wear anything partisan."

Mac McKenney, a former Republican staffer and now principal at Capitol Tax Partners, said he was "a heart attack waiting to happen" before he began running with the club in 2003. A member of the debate team in high school, McKenney constantly makes jokes about his own athletic ability.

"There used to be slow runners in this group, but now it's just me," he says.

Although the bipartisan group rarely discusses politics while running, there is the occasional friendly banter that seems more suited for bar talk than marathon training.

"Every once in a while, we rib each other about what their boss is doing, especially at a markup or on the floor," said Christine Clapp, communications director for Rep. Jay Inslee (D-Wash.). "We definitely touch base with each other about what's going on."

Clapp is expecting her first baby this summer, so she won't be running 26 miles anytime this fall. Still, she comes out in the mornings to walk the Mall while her comrades hoof it through the humidity.

Lu, legislative director for Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.), and his wife hosted a baby shower with other club members for Clapp,

and in a grand display of their running geekdom, they presented the expectant mother with a pair of baby running shoes.

"They definitely try to start them young," Clapp noted.

For those training for the Marine Corps Marathon in October, the Marines run a disciplined schedule from mid-June to marathon day. They lead the group in morning warm-ups of jumping jacks and stretches, and post-run cool-downs of difficult Marine-style push-ups, which are the usual point of groans from the bunch.

The Marines also host a pre-training kickoff luncheon every year to find new recruits. They stock the tables with sports drinks, sandwiches, pamphlets and training schedules.

Uniformed Marines are stationed throughout the room and corner any fresh face they see. Endorphins fill the air along with the anxiety of potential marathoners, and to give the hard sell, the Marines have an athletic trainer and crew of staffers turned marathon junkies on hand.

There is a social element to the running club, and the group does get together to hydrate at a Capitol Hill bar every few weeks. Some travel to other cities such as Philadelphia and Chicago for marathons, and a few die-hards are scheduled to run 26.2 miles in Iceland this August.

Three couples have met and married through the club. Gretchen Hitchner, a former press secretary for Sen. Bill Nelson (D-

Fla.), met her husband at the pre-marathon lunch kickoff in 2001. The two trained together that year for the Marine Corps Marathon and got engaged the following year after running the same race.

"We still went out for the Saturday morning runs after our wedding," Hitchner recalled. "It was a real social outlet for us."

For Celeste, who proudly tracks the progress of each of the club's runners and considers many of them his close friends, it only makes sense that so many couples have met through running.

"Marathon runners are more committed," he said, adding a jab to Capitol Hill's other popular sport. "We're in it for the long haul, not like those softball players."

Staffers Provide Politics, Law Backgrounds

HILL CLIMBERS, from page 22

major with a focus in government and history. Although he is new to the committee, he brings political experience to his job. He interned for Rep. Brian Higgins (D-N.Y.). Hellman also worked as a field coordinator for Joseph Ruggiero's unsuccessful campaign for county executive of Dutchess County, N.Y., in the fall of 2007. He also worked on retirement security issues for AARP for two summers, a background that should help him settle in quickly at the Aging Committee.

When former staffer Will Kramer left the

Hill to move to Wisconsin, Adam Weaver was there to take his place as an associate investigator. Weaver is a 2003 philosophy graduate of St. Mary's College in St. Mary's City, Md. He received his law degree from the Columbus School of Law at Catholic University in 2008.

Before taking over for Kramer, Weaver, 26, served as a law clerk for the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Subcommittee on Investigations. As an associate investigator for the Aging Committee, Weaver will be involved in planning

oversight and investigation hearings.

The committee, which is chaired by Sen. Herb Kohl (D-Wis.), deals with a wide range of issues related to the elderly. These include Social Security, retirement, health care, long-term care, fraud and abuse, and emergency preparedness. The committee also tackles topics such as rising energy costs, affordable housing issues and the upcoming transition to digital television.

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