

Honorable State Representative Jerry McBride-2009

Jerry McBride served as a member of the Missouri House of Representatives from 1974 to 2000 as a Democrat representing Missouri District 149. During his tenure in the Missouri legislature, Representative McBride made an outstanding, unique, lasting and extraordinary contribution to the parks and recreation movement in Missouri. In 1995, Representative McBride successfully offered a House Committee substitute for H.B. 88. Once passed and signed into law, his substitute enabled any city or county to pass up to a one-half cent sales tax for parks and/or storm water purpose. In June of 1995, H.B. 88 was signed into law by Governor Mel Carnahan. As a result of the passage of this legislation, over 100 cities and counties have passed local parks sales taxes in Missouri, generating well over one-quarter of a billion dollars. The majority of the local parks sales tax referendums have no sunset and many entities pass renewals every year. Therefore, it is not difficult to project this legislation being measured in the billions of dollars in several decades, funding local parks and recreation projects in Missouri for centuries to come. This success came only after hard-fought legislative campaigns. Representative McBride had worked with the Missouri Park and Recreation Association on a variety of legislative initiatives from 1986 to 1995 aimed at providing local parks and recreation entities with a dedicated source of funding, sponsoring H.J.R. 32 in 1987 and H.J.R. 18 in 1995, all with disappointing final results. Since Representative McBride's election to the House of Representatives in 1974 his support of public parks and recreation in Missouri, including State Parks, has been exemplary. During his legislative career, he was always the first member of the Missouri General Assembly MPRA officials contacted for legislative assistance and advice. He frequently sponsored beneficial legislation, or referred MPRA officials to other legislators for their support. Representative McBride is the only member of the Missouri General Assembly to ever be recognized twice by the MPRA Citations and Awards Committee, receiving an MPRA Citation Award in 1984 and an MPRA Public Official Achievement Award in 1999. Hundreds of thousands of Missourians owe a debt of gratitude to Rep. McBride's efforts to enhance their quality of life.