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Lawmakers Say Goodbye

Last week and this week, many of the House and Senate members gave or will give good bye speeches signaling the end of their term limited eight years in office. Many are tearful and beautiful expressions of gratitude and some leave strong reflections of the lawmaker's time in elected office. Broward County Republican George Moraitis closed his remarks with the following excerpt:

- *Stay true to your values – some folks come into the legislative process and they lose who they are, so stay grounded and don't forget who you were when you came here (Tallahassee) and that you are not more important just because you arrived.*
- *Understand the difference between value and opinion – you can compromise on an opinion but not on your values.*
- *Everyone is entitled to their beliefs even if you don't believe it.*
- *Keep your word even if it costs you to do so.*
- *Be able to have a debate and have a dinner. Never let debates become personal.*
- *And when you leave the legislature, all you will have is your relationships – no one will remember the bills and so be sure to deepen your relationships while in office and take them with you when you leave.*

Up next is all the events from last week. We will be pulling some long days this week, the last week of session!