



Eric Gregory/The Capital-Journal

Mary E. Turkington looked at the car given to her by friends and the Kansas Motor Carriers Association at her retirement reception on Friday. Turkington will retire Feb. 1 after 50 years of service to the association.

# Turkington honored at reception

By MUNEERA NASEER  
The Capital-Journal

1-18-97 DI

**D**escribed as the “dean of Statehouse lobbying,” Mary E. Turkington was honored Friday in a retirement reception for her 50 years of service to the Kansas Motor Carriers Association.

Turkington, 71, will retire effective Feb. 1, ending a career that began in 1946, following her graduation from the University of Kansas, said Carl Hill, public relations officer for the association.

The KMCA is a private, non-profit organization that serves as a trade association for the bus and trucking industries.

Many friends, family members and legislators came to say goodbye to Turkington. Gov. Bill Graves presented her with a proclamation that declared Jan. 17, 1997, as Mary Turkington Day, as did

**“She’s constantly been able to lobby and serve the city of Topeka with style and dignity, and most importantly, with class.”**

— Mayor Butch Felker

Mayor Butch Felker.

“The Graves family has a long history with Mary Turkington,” Graves said. “My father was one of the first persons to have been involved with Mary coming into this career.”

Graves described Turkington as a rallying point for the bus and truck industries in Kansas. Felker called her a friend and a concerned and dedicated lobbyist.

“Mary kept us all out of trouble,” he said. “She’s constantly been able to lobby

and serve the city of Topeka with style and dignity, and most importantly, with class.”

Turkington began her career at KMCA as editor of its magazine and has served as its executive director since 1968. She said there were few women lobbyists at the Statehouse when she got started.

“I didn’t know a darn thing about the process,” she confessed. “I carried a camera around. I took pictures of people and talked to people. The nicest thing about it has been meeting all those wonderful people here in the state of Kansas. There aren’t many towns in Kansas that I know of where I don’t know someone from that area or community.”

Friends along with the KMCA presented Turkington with keys to a 1997 Mercury Grand Marquis. The association also dedicated the conference room in the KMCA building in her name.