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A Sign of Franken? In One Way.

By [MARK LEIBOVICH](#)

Doug Mills/The New York Times But where is the gentleman from Minnesota?

The big fuss awaiting [Al Franken](#) on his first day on Capitol Hill was underscored by the 30-or-so reporters and photographers who gathered on the third floor of the Hart Office Building to watch a maintenance guy hang a silver- and brass-rimmed “Al Franken, Minnesota” plaque outside the incoming Democratic senator’s new office (and Norm Coleman’s old office).

The press mob began assembling for this momentous event around 10 a.m., taking note of the unfurnished reception area, the cart full of computer monitors, power cords and mousepads, and the fact that one of the front desks had already been claimed (by someone named “Zoe”).

Then, at precisely 10:30 a.m., the momentarily-famous maintenance guy — later identified as James Pogue, of the superintendent’s office — pulled up on a motorized wheelchair and slapped the pristine plaque on the designated space while cameras clicked. He ignored a shouted question (“What’s your name, sir?”) and carted off into the fluorescent-tinted sunlight.

The newest senator is expected to meet with the Senate Majority Leader, [Harry Reid](#) of Nevada, this afternoon.

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