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*The Texas Pledge of Allegiance:*

"Honor the Texas flag; I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one state under God, one and indivisible."

**Committee Announcements**

On Thursday Speaker of the House, Joe Straus announced committee assignments for the 83rd legislature. I was appointed to the Texas House Committee of Higher Education and Economic and Small Business Development. I was also appointed by Chairman John Davis as Chair of the standing Subcommittee on Manufacturing. I look forward to serving on these great committees.

*Items of Interest*

- 1. 83rd Legislative Session
- 2. Committee Assignments
- 3. Memorial Examiner
- 4. Texas Legislative Day at Fort Hood

An integral part of the Legislature is the committee process. During hearings we are able to go more in depth on the issues as well as provide an opportunity for a witness to offer valuable testimony. Committees act as the gatekeepers of proposed legislation and all other actions of the House. This session we have 40 different committees as well as 5 sub committees and 4 select committees.

Our priority this session is to strengthen our economy, improve our workforce, and encourage businesses to come to Texas. Our state is home to the world's fastest growing Fortune 500 companies. It is our responsibility to make sure that Texas is able to attract businesses. The expansion of career technology training will allow opportunities to train our students and get them ready for our state's growing demand for a skilled workforce. We also need to excel and promote research and development opportunities within our universities as well as offer low tax incentives to bring these jobs here.

As always, if you find yourself in the Capitol, please stop by our office for a visit. We enjoy working for you and look forward to being of service. Please forward our newsletter to all your friends and family to make sure they receive all our great updates.

*Did you know?*

ê The lightning whelk is the official state shell.

ê Texas is home to Dell and Compaq computers and central Texas is often referred to as the Silicon Valley of the south.

**Governor Perry and 83rd Legislature**

Last week, Gov. Perry delivered his State of the State address to the Legislature and laid out a series of specific objectives for this session. Given his past and possible future runs for office, there was great interest as to how deeply the Governor would delve into the issues facing Texas. The answer is that Gov. Perry plans to be fully engaged this session and he served notice to all that his broad goal of economic expansion would be front and center on his agenda but not his only mission over the next 120 days.

ê The first suspension bridge in the United States was the Waco Bridge. Built in 1870 and still in use today as a pedestrian crossing of the Brazos River.

If you would like to read more, please click [here](#).

**Texas Legislative Day at Fort Hood**

Texas Legislative Day at Fort Hood is a daylong event that allows Texas government officials and their staff to tour various facilities as well as training areas at Fort Hood. We had the great opportunity to interact with soldiers and learn about the many resources on Fort Hood that contribute toward their preparations that get them ready for combat.

It is because of their sacrifices and selfless devotion to duty and our country we are able to live in freedom. God bless our military forces and God bless America.

**Photos from Ft. Hood**



Last military vehicle to leave Iraq.



Soldiers reenacting a house clearing.



Team members, Kait, Ethan, and Sarah right before taking a tour in a Blackhawk.

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