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## **BIRDWELL FILES FOR RE-ELECTION TO TEXAS SENATE**

*Respected Conservative Leader and Decorated Veteran Officially on Ballot for 2016*

AUSTIN, TX—On the heels of his most successful fundraiser ever, which recently hosted nearly 500 supporters and was headlined by Governor Greg Abbott in Cleburne, State Senator Brian Birdwell (R-Granbury) officially filed for reelection at Republican Party of Texas headquarters last week. The senator reiterated his commitment to remain a leading conservative voice on the battlefield of ideas.

“Since announcing this summer my intentions to run for reelection, Mel and I have been overwhelmed by the support we’ve received from the citizens I was elected to serve,” Birdwell said. “As I spent the summer and fall traveling almost daily through the 10 counties of Senate District 22, I was continually encouraged to continue the fight for the conservative principles that make Texas so great.”

In his three legislative sessions since being elected in 2010, Birdwell has been consistently heralded as a top conservative leader thanks to his proactive efforts and firm stances on the issues of life, limited government, individual liberties, low taxes, and economic policies which promote jobs, growth and opportunity for the citizens he serves.

“I’ve been proud to fight for my constituents on critical issues like second amendment rights, border security, transparency and fiscal stewardship, but the battle is far from over,” Birdwell noted. “Just as I said after the legislative session concluded, the citizens of Senate District 22 have my steadfast commitment that I will continue to be vigilant on these and the many other important issues facing our state.”

Birdwell’s reelection filing follows an extremely successful legislative session in which the senator’s effectiveness in representing the citizens of Senate District 22 grew considerably. After a successful interim of cutting state government waste on the Sunset Advisory Commission, he was appointed by Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick to serve as chairman of both the Senate Committee on Nominations and the Senate Subcommittee on Border Security. Birdwell further led the Senate’s border security efforts as the sponsor of HB 11, Texas’ new sweeping border-enforcement plan.

Birdwell is also proud to have been the legislative leader on a number of key issues, including passing the first river authority Sunset bill in decades; the Campus Personal Protection Act for Concealed Handgun License-holders; legislation creating community oversight for toll-road authorities; an ammonium-nitrate fertilizer safety and storage plan; an expansion to higher education and career training access in north Texas; and a host of locally-focused bills addressing constituent needs throughout Senate District 22.

Additionally, Birdwell worked with his colleagues this session to provide conservative solutions to many of the key issues facing Texas. Notable among these efforts were the passage of a conservative, efficient budget that funds the essential functions of the state; the establishment of rigorous property tax and business tax relief; an historic increase in public transportation funding; and the full funding of enrollment growth for Texas public schools.

**(Continued)**

In addition to his chairmanship duties, Birdwell also serves as a member of the Senate Committees on State Affairs; Natural Resources and Economic Development; and Veterans Affairs and Military Installations. At the start of the 85th legislative session, Birdwell is projected to be the sixth most senior Republican in the Texas Senate.

After a distinguished career of serving his nation in the U.S. military, Lt. Col. (Ret.) Brian Birdwell was elected to the Texas Senate in a 2010 special election. Birdwell was a staff officer at the Pentagon on 9/11 when American Airlines Flight 77 was crashed into the building. Over 60% of his body was badly burned, and he endured 39 operations to rebuild his body. Lt. Col. Birdwell was awarded a Bronze Star for service in the Persian Gulf War and the Purple Heart for his wounds at the Pentagon.

Brian and his wife Mel authored "Refined by Fire: A Family's Triumph of Love and Faith," which tells their story of survival. They also founded Face the Fire Ministries, a non-profit supporting critical burn survivors, wounded service personnel, and their families. Even as a public servant, Birdwell has continued to share how faith in Christ sustained the family during their long ordeal following the 9/11 attack. In 2011, Birdwell agreed to share his story in an "I Am Second" video testimonial which has been viewed more than 100,000 times.

The Birdwells have been married for 28 years and reside in Granbury, where they attend Lakeside Baptist Church. The Birdwells have one son, Matt, a graduate of Texas Tech University who resides in Tarrant County with his wife Ann Marie.

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*Brian Birdwell is a native Texan, decorated military veteran, lifelong conservative Republican, survivor of the 9/11 terrorist attack on the Pentagon, and a proud husband and father. He currently represents Bosque, Ellis, Falls, Hill, Hood, Johnson, McLennan, Navarro, Somervell and Tarrant [partial] Counties in Senate District 22.*

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