



Under the Dome

February 13, 2015

Representative DeWayne Burns ★ District 58 (Bosque & Johnson Counties)

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Welcome to the first edition of my e-newsletter. I'm looking forward to keeping you updated on events at the Capitol and throughout District 58.

The first few weeks of the 84th Legislative Session have been exciting and busy. Opening Day on Jan. 13 was a very special time with family and constituents from throughout the state joining me in Austin to celebrate. Having my wife, Jennifer, and children, Parker, Austin and Emma, join me on the House floor to witness me taking the Oath of Office made the day extra special.

As I look back on that day, I am truly honored and humbled to be serving you in the Texas House of Representatives. I look forward to serving the citizens of District 58. My door is always open and I welcome your comments and suggestions.

Immediately after we were sworn in, we got to work on behalf of the great State of Texas. As the House begins to get organized, we have debated and passed the rules under which we will operate for the next two years.

The passage of these rules is a critical procedural step and allows the House to quickly get to business of the people. This enables us to begin work on the critical issues that must be addressed this session, including adopting a balanced budget, improving border security, strengthening education, providing tax relief, enhancing our road and water infrastructure and many others.

Outgoing Gov. Rick Perry addressed a joint session the House and Senate on Jan. 20 and gave his farewell speech after having served as our top elected official for 14 years. We wish the Governor and his wife, Anita, best wishes as they look forward to new opportunities and experiences.

Newly elected Gov. Greg Abbott will give his State of the State address on Feb. 17.

To view the Texas House of Representatives or the Texas Senate live on your computer when we are in session, visit Texas Legislature Online and click on the video/audio links. In addition, if you have AT&T U-Verse television service, you can watch us live on channel 99.

If you are in Austin during Session, please be sure to stop by my office (E2.804) in the Capitol Extension. I'm looking forward to seeing constituents from across District 58 during the Session.



Taking the Oath of Office on the first day of the 84th Session.



Pam Masters interviews me at the Fishbowl Radio Network studio while District Director Verlie Edwards listens.

JoCo Community Radio Interview Features Rep. Burns

I was honored to have recently been a guest of Pam Masters and Tonya Johnson on JoCo Community Radio visiting about the early days of the Session and what I like about Johnson County. To listen to the broadcast, click on the following link.

<http://iococommunitradio.podbean.com/e/ioco-dewavne-burns/>

Rep. Burns Named to Two Major Committees

Last week we received committee appointments and I am honored and excited to have been named to the House Committees on Homeland Security & Public Safety and Natural Resources.

The Homeland Security & Public Safety Committee has jurisdiction over areas pertaining to law enforcement, border security, the apprehension of criminals, defense of the state and nation, as well as terrorism and disaster response. The committee has oversight over the Department of Public Safety, Texas Division of Emergency Management, Texas Crime Stoppers Council and many other law enforcement and safety commissions.

I'm honored to serve on the Homeland Security and Public Safety Committee which impacts an important, fundamental area of responsibility for Texas government; the safety of Texas citizens. Where the Federal government has failed to protect our southern border, Texas must step in and answer the call. I look forward to working with all of our state's first responders to help insure public safety statewide.

The Natural Resources Committee has jurisdiction over all areas pertaining to the control and development of land and water and land and water resources, including the taking, storing, control, and use of all water in the state. The committee has oversight over the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, the Texas Water Development Board, and several other agencies, districts, and authorities related to water quality, quantity and use.

No single factor will dictate future population growth and economic expansion as much as the availability of water. Water remains a top priority and I am ready to work with members of the Natural Resources Committee to implement common-sense solutions to the challenges we face regarding water in Texas.



Photo Gallery

Opening Day



Top from left: Constituents watching swearing-in ceremony on closed circuit TV. Bosque County Judge Dewey Ratliff visits with Rep. Burns. Center: Bosque County residents Janet Jackson, left, and Dan Ahart, right, congratulate Rep. Burns. Johnson County constituents Betsy Ruffin, Brenda Gammon and Elizabeth Victory. Rep. Burns walks to the House Floor with wife, Jennifer, and son, Austin. Bottom: The Burns family — Parker, Austin, DeWayne, Emma and Jennifer — on the House Floor waiting for the ceremonies to begin.



In & Around the Capitol



Left: I had a great opportunity to tour Fort Hood recently and personally thank the men and women serving our country. Right: It was great to see Johnson County Commissioners Larry Woolley and Kenny Howell.



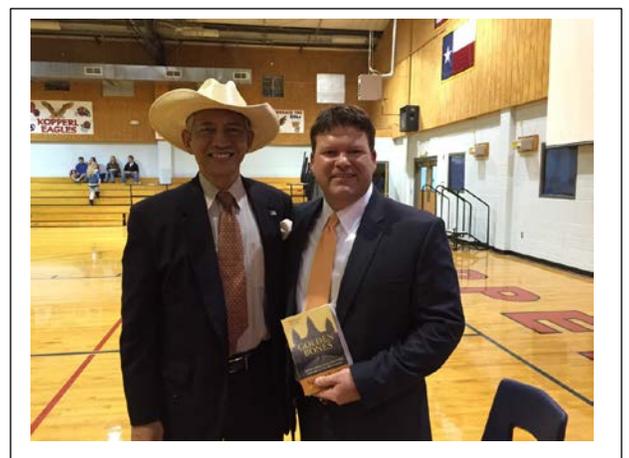
Family Crisis Center of Johnson County stopped by for a visit.



Serving as Speaker of the House.

District Happenings

I was honored to join the Kopperl ISD, local veterans and community leaders today at Kopperl High School for a "Valentines for Veterans" event to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. Kopperl ISD is the first school district in the nation to become a Commemorative Partner in a Department of Defense program recognizing the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War. Among the dignitaries attending the ceremony was Sichan Siv, former Ambassador to the United Nations (pictured). The Commemorative Partner Program is designed for federal, state and local communities, veterans' organizations and other nongovernmental organizations to assist a grateful nation in thanking and honoring our Vietnam Veterans and their families.



If you know of anyone interested in receiving my newsletter, please ask them to email district58.burns@house.state.tx.us and ask to be added to our distribution list. To unsubscribe, you may notify us at the same email address.