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Representative Dan Huberty



STATE CAPITOL
Capitol Extension E2.712
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768

DISTRICT
4501 Magnolia Cove
Suite 201
Kingwood, TX 77345

PHONE
512.463.0520

FAX
512.463.5896

E-MAIL
District127.Huberty@house.state.tx.us

Meet My Staff:

CASEY CHRISTMAN

Chief of Staff

Casey.Christman@house.state.tx.us

MAGGIE IRWIN

Legislative Director

Maggie.Irwin@house.state.tx.us

AUTUMN JODZIO

Executive Assistant

Autumn.Jodzio@house.state.tx.us

CHASE BARKER

Legislative Intern

Chase.Barker@house.state.tx.us

District 127,

It is an honor to be serving the people of District 127 in the Texas House. I know I have the support of the community behind me and am proud to be a voice for you.

This session, we will be tackling big issues with a projected \$27 billion shortfall. We know everyone has to tighten their belts, including the State of Texas; our first week in session, the House Members voted unanimously to cut our own operating budgets by 10 percent. This did not affect us much, as I had hired an experienced staff, within those constraints, to help me serve you in our 140-day long attempt to help fix those problems. Our team has worked hard these first few weeks, and as a result, we have filed two bills and will be filing three more in the near future. Watch for our weekly newsletters in the future to stay up to date on our progress in the 82nd Legislature by visiting our website www.house.state.tx.us.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact my Capitol office at 512-463-0520 or email us at District127.Huberty@house.state.tx.us.

I look forward to proudly serving the constituents of District 127.

Sincerely,

Dan Huberty
State Representative- District 127



Visit Us In Austin

If you are planning to visit Austin or the State Capitol anytime soon, please let our office know in advance. We can assist you in making your trip extra special with tours and photos or even flags that have been flown in your honor over the Capitol Building. If you have any questions, please contact us at 512-463-0520.

PO2 Thompson's Key Exchange Ceremony

This past weekend, a very deserving family finally arrived home. On Saturday, January 22, Navy Petty officer Anthony Thompson, his wife, Ivonne, and son, AJ, were given the keys to their brand new home; a gift from Homes for Our Troops. A national non-profit, non-partisan 501(c)(3) organization, they're committed to helping those who have selflessly given to our country and have returned home with serious disabilities and injuries.

During his second deployment to Iraq in April 2007, Thompson and his fellow marines were struck by the blast from a suicide bomber who detonated an explosive underneath the bridge the soldiers were crossing. Thompson was found unresponsive during recovery efforts. After being transported to three separate Battalion Aid Stations, Petty Officer Thompson was finally stabilized for transport to Landstuhl, Germany. As a result of the blast he suffered a Traumatic Brain Injury, an incomplete spinal cord injury and a punctured right lung. Eventually Anthony was airlifted to the James A. Haley VA in Tampa, which specializes in brain and spinal cord injuries.



Saturday morning, the Thompson Family was led by an escort including Rolling Thunder, the U.S. Border Patrol, Huffman High School JROTC, Lone Star Cowgirls, Summer Creek High School Band and the Patriot Guard Riders from the Kingwood Harley-Davidson to their new home in Atascocita. Guest speakers at the home included, John Gonsalves, Neil Frustaglio, John Lavazarri and Mike Ferron. I was also granted some time and presented Ivonne and AJ with a flag flown above the Texas Capitol in Petty Officer Thompson's honor. The Homes for Our Troops team then presented the family with the keys to their new home.

We welcome Anthony, Ivonne and AJ to our community and are honored to have them here.

Lake Houston Chamber of Commerce Chairman's Ball

Friday, January 21, Janet and I attended the Lake Houston Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Chairman's Ball.

The event, held at the Airport Marriott, celebrated a successful year for the Chamber to more than 300 attendees and highlighted the 2011 Haden E. McKay, MD Citizen of the Year recipient, Nancy Shortsleeve. Nancy is a great member and a wonderful addition to our community and chamber. Nancy has been vital to the success of the Chamber from her service as an Executive Board and Long Range Planning Task Force member to her assistance with the Executive Search Committee to recruit and hire our new President, Charles Dromgoole.

Nancy owns and runs local business, Logostuff, but spends her free time assisting local nonprofits like The Door, H.A.A.M., In the Pink of Health, Go Red for Women and many other worthy causes, like FamilyTime, which honored her as Woman of Achievement in 2004. Even with all of this, she still finds time to serve as the Lay Leader and a choir member at the Atascocita united Methodist Church.

US 90 Interchange Ribbon Cutting

Federal, State and local officials joined the TxDOT on January 25th to celebrate the opening of the newly-constructed segment of US 90 from the IH 10/IH 610 Interchange to Beltway 8. The new freeway will provide more direct access to northeast Harris County and the communities between Lake Houston and IH-10 East Freeway, including many of Houston's newest suburbs.



The project was started in September, 2006 and it was completed at a cost of \$157 million. It includes approximately seven miles of main lane freeway paving, three direct connectors, storm sewer installation and detention ponds. The roadway will feature three main lanes in each direction and allows for direct access to and from IH 10 East and IH 610/East Loop. The contractor is slated to open the westbound main lanes within a week's time and the eastbound lanes are expected to open late January/early February.

My Legislation

The first piece of legislation I filed was H.B. 571, which is going to ensure that sand mining operators are no longer depositing silt and other runoff into the San Jacinto River and other rivers across the state. Over the last several years, Senator Williams has been working to push legislation that will save our water sources across Texas by filing S.B. 160 this session, and I look forward to helping him with this cause on the House side.

Another bill that I am excited to be working on is H.B. 698, which will allow School Board Members who have their Concealed Handgun License to carry during their public and private School Board meetings. As a former School Board Trustee and President, I strongly believe it is within our rights as citizens to be able to protect ourselves during these sometimes late-night meetings. I will also be keeping a close eye on other gun bills as they are filed by my fellow members in the Legislature.

Upcoming Legislation

In an effort to alleviate the problem of rising property taxes, I am working on a bill that would cap private and commercial property tax to the rate of inflation, or five percent, whichever is lower. Our Legislative Council is working on a few other drafts for me, and we are anxious to get those filed before the March 11th filing deadline.

Legislation to Watch

As the Governor announced over the weekend, legislation that would require a woman considering an abortion to review a sonogram before the procedure, is now on the emergency item list. This will allow the Legislature to take up and vote on the bill earlier than usual. Senator Patrick has filed this bill, S.B. 16, and there are two identical bills in the House that have already been filed. I will be co-authoring this legislation, helping to ensure that it passes. Also added to Governor Perry's emergency item list is Voter ID, which the Senate announced it will take up this week in hopes of passing it off to the House, where my fellow members and I will help it move through the process. Another bill to watch closely is H.B. 238, by Representative Larry Phillips, relating to the issuance of "Choose Life" license plates and the creation of the Choose Life account in the general revenue fund. I have signed on as a co-author to help Rep. Phillips with this important bill. I have also agreed to co-author Rep. Christian's HJR 51, a resolution relating to the rights of individuals to choose or decline to choose to purchase health insurance coverage. As a resolution, this will go to the voters as a Constitutional amendment in November.

As the legislative session begins to move faster, bills will be filed on many more important issues, such as education funding, immigration, transportation, and of course the State budget and redistricting. My office staff and I will be keeping a close eye on these and other issues as they arise.

Upcoming Events

Be sure to join me at the following events:

January 29th

Kingwood Chamber's Travis McCormick Kleenwood Day

9:00 am - Meet at your local Kingwood Pool

12:00 pm - Join at Town Center to celebrate the day's work

Crosby-Huffman Chamber Consumer Expo

10:00 am - 3:30 pm - Crosby High School

Huffman FFA Dinner and Auction

FamilyTime Women of Achievement Gala

6:00 pm - The Marriott Airport Hotel

February 4th

Humble ISD Livestock Show and Rodeo BBQ Cook-Off

5:00 pm - 10:00 pm - Humble Civic Center

February 5th

Lake Houston YMCA Bridgefest

8:00 am - Lake Houston YMCA

Kingwood Kiwanis Golf Ball Drop

9:00 am - Lake Houston YMCA

Highlands Rotary Chili Feast

11:00 am - St. Jude's Catholic Church

Humble ISD Livestock Show and Rodeo BBQ Cook-Off

10:00 am - 11:30 pm - Humble Civic Center

Kingwood Tea Party Comes to Austin

I must say thank you to the Kingwood Tea Party for taking the next step with me. After supporting me through the whole election, they took another step by joining me at the Capitol for the Opening Day Ceremony. They chartered a bus and brought more than 50 community members and activists to be with us on this special day. A special thank you to Jim and Robin Lennon, Daniel and Cherrie Ledoux, Larry Lane and Gus Faris for pulling the entire trip together. It was a treat to have them with us as we began this historic session and we are honored to have their support as we conquer the remaining days of our 140-day adventure. We look forward to many more of their visits to the Texas Capitol.



Opening Day

Family, friends, and supporters made their way to Austin for the exciting day. Accompanying me at my desk for the swearing-in ceremony were my beautiful wife, Janet, and my three children, Brianna, Ryan and Dylan. Sitting only a few feet away were my parents, Dick and Maureen Huberty, my sister, Lisa Holden, and my cousin, Tom Huberty.

I also asked several of my Humble ISD colleagues to join me on the House floor, including Superintendent, Dr. Guy Sconzo and Trustees Charles Cunningham, Dave Martin, and Lynn Fields. City of Houston Council Member Mike Sullivan and his wife, Kim, and Constable Ron Hickman were also there to support me.



District Office Opening

Watch for more information about our District Office at 4501 Magnolia Cove, Suite 201, Kingwood, Texas 77345. Located in the beautiful King's Harbor shopping center, we hope our office will be a great place for you to come visit us. The date of the opening is yet to be determined.