



For Immediate Release – May 21, 2010

Brian Birdwell Statement on June 22nd Special Election Runoff and National Election Results

*“Citizens are rebelling against the hand-picked candidates
chosen by political insiders”*

(Granbury, TX) - Lt. Col. (Ret.) Brian Birdwell today released the following statement concerning the June 22nd special election runoff date announced this week by Gov. Perry:

“On June 22nd, conservatives in SD 22 will have the opportunity to send shock waves through the Texas political establishment. This week in Pennsylvania, Kentucky, and Arkansas - as well as two weeks ago in Utah - establishment candidates went down to defeat or were forced into a runoff. These election results underscore the mood of citizens who are rebelling against the hand-picked candidates chosen by the political insiders.

Grassroots voters are working to take back their government. These same trends are at work in our campaign, as evidenced by our strong showing on May 8th despite being outspent more than 4 to 1. This environment does not bode well for my opponent, but we must finish the job. Our message of lower taxes, more freedom, less government, and fidelity to our conservative principles is taking root. The runoff election is a clear choice between a conservative citizen legislator and a lobbyist. On June 22nd, I believe the people will send a message that this State Senate seat does not belong to lobbyists or special interests. It belongs to the people.”

Birdwell, a U.S. Army veteran awarded a Bronze Star for service in the Persian Gulf War, was a staff officer at the Pentagon on 9/11 when American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the building. Over 60% of his body was badly burned, and he has endured 39 operations to rebuild his body. His story of perseverance and recovery, despite incredible odds, was chronicled by state and national media and has inspired thousands of citizens around the country. Brian and his wife Mel authored *“Refined by Fire: A Family's Triumph of Love and Faith,”* which tells their story of survival. For his wounds at the Pentagon, he was awarded the Purple Heart, and upon retirement received the Legion of Merit Award.

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