



JANUARY 2017

FIRST DAY OF SESSION

On January 10th, 2017, I was honored to be sworn in to the Texas State Legislature's 85th legislative session. As Representative of the 22nd Legislative District, I can assure you that I am prepared to address any issue and work constructively for the good of Texas and my constituents. The coming years offer challenges and opportunities, and the legislature will always work to ensure that the interests of the people are of foremost importance.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

I had the pleasure to attend the 31st annual MLK Holiday Brunch hosted by the Martin Luther King Support Group of Southeast Texas. The theme for the event was "Remember, Celebrate, Act". Many Southeast Texans attended the brunch to honor and celebrate the life of civil rights activist Martin Luther King Jr.

Dr. King stood for peace, social justice, and equality. For 30 years, The Martin Luther King Support Group of Southeast Texas has carried on this message, inspiring many individuals. Over the years, thousands of people have attended the event keeping Dr. King's dream alive. My hope for this great state is to embrace Dr. King's message of love for our communities.

TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY DAY

On January 24th, 2017, 250 students, staff and alumni participated in TSU day at the capitol. TSU leadership was recognized on the floor of the House and Senate, and a resolution was presented acknowledging January 24th as TSU Day at the capitol. As a proud alumni of Thurgood Marshall School of Law, it was a privilege to be honored by Texas Southern University as they are a truly exceptional university.

LEADERSHIP SOUTHEAST TEXAS DAY

On January 29th-31st, Leadership Southeast Texas (LSET) traveled to Austin, Texas to participate in Leadership Southeast Texas Days. It was a great opportunity for me to share my personal perspectives on issues facing Texas Legislation this session, especially the issues that

affect my constituents. I want to congratulate LSET on 25 years of educating members, guest delegates, and alumni on the most significant issues impacting Southeast Texas. Their work is very much appreciated.

AFRICAN AMERICAN LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT

The Texas Legislative Black Caucus, which I am a proud member, is hosting a legislative summit from February 26th-28th. The TLBC is currently composed of 17 members of the Texas House of Representatives and 2 members of the Texas Senate. Their focus is on addressing issues that concern African Americans in the State of Texas, and working to find solutions. Attendees will have the opportunity to get engaged in the legislative process, as well as meet with members of the TLBC.

To register for this free event, visit <http://texaslegislativeblackcaucus.com/>.

TLBC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

On February 27th, 2017, the Texas Legislative Black Caucus is hosting a Scholarship Banquet where we will award over 60 scholarships to deserving students throughout Texas. Each TLBC member will get three (3) - \$1,500 scholarships to distribute to students in their respective districts, as well as an additional six (6) scholarships that will be awarded on an at-large basis to students within TLBC member's districts. There will also be opportunities for students to receive scholarships outside of TLBC member's districts.

The deadline to apply is February 5th, 2017. For applications or more information, please contact my office at (512) 463-0662.

SUPER BOWL LI

On Sunday, February 5th, 2 players will represent Port Arthur in Super Bowl LI. Atlanta Falcons defensive lineman Jonathan Babineaux is a Port Arthur Lincoln class of 2000 graduate, and New England Patriots linebacker Elandon Roberts is a Port Arthur Memorial class of 2012 graduate. Congratulations to both of these men as they continue to make Southeast Texas proud, and inspire our youth to become something great.

Capitol Office: P.O. Box 2910 Austin, Tx 78768-2910, (512) 463-0662, FAX: (512) 463-8381
District Office: One Plaza Square Suite 203 Port Arthur, TX 77642, (409) 724-0788, FAX: (409) 724-0750

joe.deshotel@house.state.tx.us