

★ **SIXTEEN HOUSE MEMBERS GET TOP HONORS ON HERITAGE
ALLIANCE 2007 CONSERVATIVE SCORECARD** ★

Number of women scoring 90% or better doubles since 2005

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DALLAS – Sixteen members of the House received a ninety percent or better on the Heritage Alliance end of session conservative scorecard for the 2007 session of the Texas Legislature, which was unveiled today. That number represents a 60% increase over 2005, when only ten legislators score 90 percent or higher (the scorecard can be accessed at www.heritagealliance.com/tcr/tcrhome.php).

Other noteworthy aspects of this year's scorecard include:

- The number of female House members in the top bracket doubled since 2005. All four of them are in the top five most conservative legislators.
- Three freshman House members were in the top tier.
- The Senate did not have any members earn a score of 90% or higher for the sixth straight legislative session.

“We are pleased with the results of this year's scorecard,” said Richard Ford, Founder and President of Heritage Alliance. “It is exciting to see the number of legislators taking a stand for conservative Texas values increase this session, and to see the number of women double is really exciting because women are playing a larger role in state government.”

Ford continued: “I am the most proud of the freshmen representatives, though, because many of these votes required them to take a difficult stand, in their first session, when members are expected to go along to get along. However, I am disappointed that no senators scored 90% or above again this session.

The members of the House to receive a score of 90% or higher in descending order are:

Jodie Laubenberg (R-89), Betty Brown (R-4), Joe Crabb (R-127),
Linda Harper-Brown (R-105), Debbie Riddle (R-150), Charlie Howard (R-26),
Nathan Macias (R-73), Rob Orr (R-58), Ken Paxton (R-70), Bill Zedler (R-96),
Wayne Christian (R-9), Rob Eissler (R-15), Kelly Hancock (R-91), Tan Parker (R-63), Wayne Smith (R-128),
Larry Taylor (R-24)

To create the scorecard, Heritage Alliance reviewed every recorded vote taken during this session in both the House and Senate. Heritage Alliance staff also worked with distinguished former legislators Rep. Rick Green, Rep. Talmadge Heflin, Rep. Joe Horn, and Rep. MA Taylor to determine which votes should be included as part of the scorecard. Sixty-seven votes were included on the House list and 53 on the Senate list. The panel chose the votes to include without being informed how any particular legislator actually voted.

Ford said the increase in conservative activity may be due in part to Heritage Alliance's legislative analysis and contact with legislators. Legislative Analyst, Tim Weste, analyzed more than 1,000 bills and posted 180 bill analyses on the Heritage Alliance website at www.heritagealliance.com/billanalysis.php. During the legislative session, preliminary scores were updated each week, and legislators were informed when the scorecard or bill analysis section of our website was updated. Alerts also were sent to the legislators when important votes were approaching.

Each of the legislators who scored 90% or higher will be honored at Heritage Alliance's 2007 Freedom Texas Celebration, which will be held in Dallas on October 11. Musical entertainment will be provided by the Levee Singers, Dallas' legendary singing group, which appeared at The Levee in Dallas for ten years during the 1960's. The group has been on several of the most popular network TV shows and their two latest CD's, recorded in 2005 and 2006, garnered seven Grammy nominations. More information about the event will be available as the details are finalized. Also featured will be The Sammy Davenport Band.

In addition to the celebration honoring the legislators, Heritage Alliance will inform the 16 legislators' constituents about the award and urge them to offer their congratulations. Constituents will also be encouraged to visit www.txvoice.com for an easy way to send a personal email or letter of thanks and congratulations to their member.

Heritage Alliance is a 501(c)4 organization that seeks to empower the handful of citizens necessary to restore principles of free enterprise, limited government, limited taxation, and our traditional Judeo-Christian heritage in government.

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