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**KEN PAXTON FILES FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL,
EARNS ENDORSEMENT OF SENATOR BRIAN BIRDWELL**
*Respected Conservative Senator, decorated veteran, courageous 9-11
survivor calls Paxton his “brother in arms”*

(AUSTIN, TX) – Today in Austin at the Republican Party of Texas headquarters, Senator Ken Paxton formally filed to run for Attorney General and announced a key endorsement from decorated veteran and respected conservative Texas State Senator, former Lt. Col. Brian Birdwell. Senator Birdwell and his wife, Mel, joined Senator Paxton and his wife Angela for the filing and endorsement.

In endorsing Senator Paxton, Birdwell said, “I’m proud to endorse Ken Paxton to serve as our next Attorney General for many reasons, but most emphatically because I can truly call him my ‘brother in arms.’” Serving alongside Ken in the Texas Senate has shown me that when things get tough, he’s a man I can trust to stay committed to the constitutional, conservative principles that Texans cherish. Ken Paxton’s proven record of strong, conservative leadership is exactly what we need on the front lines of our fight to keep Texas leading the nation, and I’m proud to be behind him.”

Senator Paxton said of his friend and colleague, “As I officially launch my campaign for Attorney General, I am honored to have a man of Senator Birdwell’s character, integrity, and caliber by my side. Brian Birdwell is a true patriot, and he and his wife Mel are loved and respected by so many people across this state. Senator Birdwell has inspired Texans with his conservative leadership in the Texas Senate, his service to our nation, and with the incredible faith, grit, and determination he demonstrated after enduring a cowardly attack at the Pentagon. I look forward to working with him as we fight to preserve Texas for future generations.”

A native Texan and life-long conservative, Senator Brian Birdwell served in the United States Army and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel. Birdwell was a staff officer at the Pentagon on 9-11 when American Airlines Flight 77 was 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. Birdwell was awarded a Bronze Star for service in the Persian Gulf War and the Purple Heart for his wounds at the Pentagon.

Senator Birdwell represents Senate District 22, which includes Bosque, Ellis, Falls, Hill, Hood, Johnson, McLennan, Navarro, and Somervell counties and a portion of Tarrant County. He and his wife, Mel, live in Granbury.

Today’s endorsement by Senator Birdwell continues a string of key conservative endorsements for Senator Paxton, including Kelly Shackelford, Chairman of the Ted Cruz for Senate Statewide Leadership Team and Liberty Institute* President; Cathie Adams, President, Texas Eagle Forum* and Former Chairman, Republican Party of Texas; Ernest Angelo, Jr., Former Republican National Committeeman; Tim Lambert, President, Texas Home School Coalition* and Former Republican National Committeeman for Texas; Kaye T. Goolsby, Statewide Grassroots Chairman for Ted Cruz for U.S. Senate*; Ann Hettinger, Former State Director of Concerned Women for America of Texas*; Rick Green, Former Texas State Representative and Host of WallBuilders* Live; Carol Everett, Texas Pro-Life Leader; Founder and CEO of The Heidi Group*; Michelle Smith, State Director of Concerned Women for America of Texas*; and Peggy Venable. Senator Paxton has also been endorsed by U.S. Senator Rick Santorum, Young Conservatives of Texas, Texans for Fiscal Responsibility, Texas Right to Life PAC, Texas Home School Coalition Association, 24 Texas legislators, and over 100 Tea Party leaders and activists across Texas.

*organization listed for identification purposes only

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