Gov. Rick Perry's Speech Announcing Roger Williams As Secretary Of State

*Note - Gov. Perry frequently departs from prepared remarks.

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Good morning and thank you for joining us.

One of the most important appointments a governor makes is the secretary of state, the constitutional officer responsible for ensuring the integrity of our elections and advising the governor on the important issues of international affairs, trade and strengthening the border region. For over a year, Texas has been blessed by the leadership of Geoff Connor. Secretary Connor ably led Texas through this year’s primary elections and runoffs, two special elections for state senate, the general election as well as many municipal elections. Texans can place great faith in our democratic system because of his work, and on behalf of the people of Texas I offer my deepest appreciation for a job well done.

Not only must the secretary be a skilled elections officer and diplomat, he must be an advocate for a more prosperous border, and a powerful salesman for the people of Texas. One of the most important duties of the secretary of state is to market Texas to potential trading partners at home and abroad, and to maintain strong and vibrant relationships with established partners like Mexico.

Today I am proud to announce that the next Secretary of State is a Texan who will use his talents as a gifted businessman, dedicated civic leader and known philanthropist to sell Texas to the world, Roger Williams.

Over the past thirty years, Roger Williams has built a remarkably successful business, advocated for countless charitable organizations like the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, and inspired Texans to live for great causes as a motivational speaker. He has served on the Texas Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Board, Texas...
Christian University’s Committee of 100 athletic marketing group, Governor George W. Bush’s Focus on Reading taskforce, and numerous business and community boards. And if it weren't for a shoulder injury, most folks would know Roger today as a former major league baseball player. Unfortunately, he needed Tommy John surgery before Tommy John did. He has found success in a diversity of fields because he is a powerful spokesmen and salesman for any cause he champions, and I am confident that he will achieve the same high level of success on behalf of the people of Texas as Secretary of State.

Texans need a strong and experienced leader in the secretary of state’s office who can convince government and businesses leaders to expand their ties to Texas, and bring jobs and opportunity to our state. I believe that there is no person better qualified for the job than Roger Williams. Along with Assistant Secretary of State Buddy Garcia, a Brownsville native who has over a decade of experience working on critical border issues, Roger Williams has my complete confidence, and I believe that he will earn the same confidence from the people of Texas.

I want to congratulate Roger, his wife Patty, and their daughters J.J. and Sabrina on this historic occasion, and I know that he will make his family and the entire state of Texas proud. And now it is my great honor to introduce to you Texas’ 105th Secretary of State, Roger Williams.