Buddy West Eulogy

Gov. Perry's remarks at the funeral of Texas legislator, Buddy West

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

Saturday, June 28, 2008

If they were casting a movie on the history of West Texas, Buddy West would have been the perfect choice for a narrator, and an important figure in the story. He was a man who devoted his life to his family and served his state faithfully, for a term far longer than most ever do.

When he walked the halls of the capitol, he spoke with passion and authority on issues that mattered to his district and the state. When Buddy spoke, people listened, and learned.

His lifelong commitment to his alma mater enhanced UT: Permian Basin as an institution of higher learning, and will continue to enrich the lives of its students for years to come.

In short, Buddy West lived a life of substance, leaving a legacy of significance. He will be missed.

To his wife, Shirley, and his devoted family members and friends, know that I am one of many who share your grief, who have also been praying for you and your family.

I stand here today representing more than 23 million Texans, carrying their expression of concern, hoping to provide some small comfort, and agreeing with you that Buddy was one heck of a man.

It is entirely fitting that this beautiful, historic setting should be Buddy’s final resting place. Here, he takes his rightful place among other bold Texas leaders from our past, men and women who have faithfully served their fellow man, and made significant sacrifice for this state we all love so much.

Shirley, I would share with you and your family these words from the book of Isaiah, Chapter 41:

“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. For I am the LORD, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, do not fear; I will help you.”

God blessed our state with Buddy West for more than 70 years, and now will enjoy his company in heaven for eternity.

May He rest in peace in the arms of God. And may God bless you all.