Esperanza "Hope" Andrade sworn in as Texas Secretary of State

107th in a line starting with Stephen F. Austin

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

Thursday, September 18, 2008

Thank you, Dr. [Francisco] Cigarroa, [President, UTHSC] for that introduction and for running the show here today.

Today is a great day for Texas. It's a great day because we have managed to keep Hope Andrade on our team. The private sector would have loved to have her, but Texas is fortunate that we convinced her to take that office down on the first floor and represent our state.

Hope has been representing our state for years, in both the public and private sectors. She has been a champion for San Antonio and a passionate advocate for all Texas has to offer. With her remarkable life story of hard work, risk taking, and entrepreneurial success, she is a role model for young people across our state. She is also the ideal choice for Secretary of State.

Hope Andrade is one of those people who just get things done. Then she surrounds herself with people who share her vision, her work ethic and her can-do spirit then empowers them to do their best work. When she looks at a situation, she doesn't get intimidated by roadblocks, because she sees the opportunity just on the other side.

Over the course of her life, she has pursued those opportunities and been remarkably successful. I am pleased that a leader with her extensive track record has agreed to serve our state. When she sits down across the table from a business owner in another state or country, to talk about their investing in Texas or bringing all or part of their operations here, she will carry the credibility of a successful business career.
When those conversations turn to our state’s transportation infrastructure and its ability to support business, she knows the answers. Four years on the Transportation Commission will do that for a person.

When she meets with diplomats from other countries, she will apply her warm personality, her direct manner of speaking, and her experience as an ambassador of goodwill for San Antonio. For extra emphasis, maybe she can bring my man, Diego, along. Diego, you got your grandmother’s charm. I wouldn’t be surprised to see you up here someday taking over her job...or maybe even mine.

When she works to maintain fair elections, she will be driven by a heartfelt understanding of the importance of each and every vote. After all, Ramiro, the love of her life, risked his life for people yearning to breathe free when he served in Vietnam. In short, I have every confidence in Hope Andrade’s ability to represent our state and ensure fairness in our elections.

Madame Secretary, it is an honor to have you on our team and a privilege to take part in today’s ceremony. I wish you all the best and pledge my support as you work to continue our state’s strong run of economic development and electoral fairness.

May God bless you and your family and, through you, may He continue to bless the great state of Texas.