

State Representative Chuck Hopson, Dst. 11



**Hopson,
calls for special
session in open
letter to
governor**

July 31, 2007

The Honorable Rick Perry
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711-2428

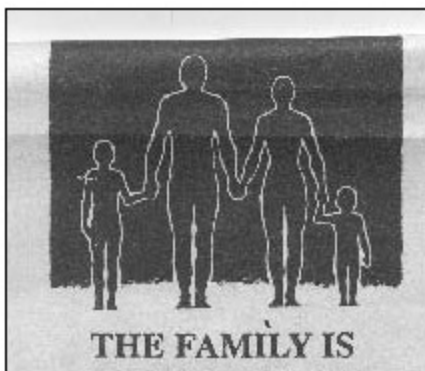
Dear Governor Perry:

I would respectfully request that a Special Session of the Texas Legislature be called in order to address the consequences caused by your line-item veto for FY 09 Higher Education Group Insurance (HEGI) Contributions for public community colleges in Texas. This veto will have an extremely negative impact on Panola and Kilgore Colleges in my district.

I have received many letters and calls from students, administrators and employees of these colleges who are very distressed about this veto. It is unjust to impede the efforts of our community colleges. In rural areas like District 11 these colleges are often the only resource for continued education and job training.

This veto will only ensure an increase in tuition rates by \$15 to \$21 per credit hour. This veto will also lead to an increase in ad valorem taxes and the cutting of important programs.

Therefore, on behalf of the citizens of District 11 and all of Texas, I am respectfully requesting that you call a Special Session immediately so that the Texas Legislature resolves this serious crisis. Respectfully,
Chuck Hopson
State Representative
District 11



Star Jones Reynolds I had Gastric Bypass Surgery

Reynolds, 45, says she was "intentionally evasive" when people asked how she'd dropped 160 pounds in three years. She had gastric bypass surgery in August 2003.

She writes about her weight loss in a first-person essay in the September issue of Glamour magazine, on newsstands Aug. 7.

Everything about me was already so public (mostly my own doing -- talk about dumb!), so of course everyone wanted to know what I had done," she writes. "I was also terrified someone would have a tragic result after emulating me without making an informed decision with her doctor."

"But the complete truth is, I was scared of what people might think of me," she continues. "I was afraid to be vulnerable, and ashamed at not being



Keeping her decision private made her a hypocrite, she says, because she had been so outspoken about her firing as co-host of ABC's "The View" last year.

Reynolds, who weighed 307 pounds at her heaviest, says her "out-of-control behavior" began around her 40th birthday in 2002. Feeling lonely, she turned to food for comfort and gained 75 pounds over the course of 17 months.

"I used to look in the mirror and take pride in my figure, but that was when I was legitimately a full-figured woman," she says. "I'd gradually gone from full-figured to morbidly obese."

Reynolds opted for surgery after a friend expressed concern about her weight. It was a success, she says, though she found she was "still consumed with the same anger, shame and insecurity as before."

Her husband, banker Al Reynolds, encouraged her to begin psychological therapy in the summer of 2005. She learned, among other things, that she "couldn't control what others thought," she says. She began to heal by talking openly about her weight loss to strangers.

Liz Battle Retires from Rusk State Hospital

Liz Battle decided to take a break from Team Treatment meetings and patient care and supervision when she took off her name tag and put down her pen last month. A Retirement Party was hosted by her co-workers on the Cypress Unit for thirty years service as a registered nurse. Her family and co-workers came to enjoy the party and wish her well.



RSH Superintendent Ted Debs and Liz Battle pictured above.

The Johnson Family Reunion
Starts 6:30 Friday, September 7th - 9th
New Summerfield, Texas
Location: FM 2274 N
Contact: Debra @ (903) 854-4700

These are the descendants, family and friends of
Clara & James Johnson

Woodville CME Annual Revival

Sunday, August 19, 2007 - 3:00PM
August 20th - 24th - 7:30 PM Nightly

Rev. Joe Radford, Pastor