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## **Iraq Veteran, Conservative Leader Van Taylor Announces Campaign for Texas State House**

(Plano, TX) – Decorated Iraq veteran and conservative Republican Van Taylor today announced his candidacy for the Republican nomination in State House District 66.

A successful businessman and United States Marine residing in Plano, Taylor said, “Throughout my life, I have fought for our freedoms and founding principles. Whether in Iraq or here at home in Texas, my life has been a series of missions dedicated to defending our conservative values and beliefs.”

“As the rest of America lurches toward liberalism, Texas needs leaders with the courage to provide conservative solutions to the challenges facing our state, and that’s why I have decided to run for state representative. In these challenging economic times, we need business leaders who understand that jobs and opportunity come from the private sector – not government.”

A 7<sup>th</sup> generation Texan, Van Taylor earned his Eagle Scout at age 13, receiving it from none other than George W. Bush. He is a 1995 graduate from Harvard College, where he started a Republican Club. As the Marine honor grad from intelligence school, Van earned the privilege of leading an elite Reconnaissance platoon. After four years of active duty, he joined the Marine Corps Reserves to continue serving his country while earning an MBA at Harvard Business School.

As a Captain, Van led missions behind enemy lines for the 4500 Marine Task Force Tarawa, including the leadership of the Task Force’s first platoon entering Iraq before the start of the main invasion in 2003. Taylor’s platoon encountered, and defeated, several Fedayeen ambushes. His platoon helped rescue an American prisoner of war and rescued 31 wounded men during a counter-attack by several thousand Iraqis. For his service, the Marine Corps awarded Van the Navy Commendation Medal with a “V” for Valor, the Combat Action Ribbon, and the Presidential Unit Citation.

Upon returning home from Iraq, Van carried the Republican banner as the GOP nominee for Congress from Texas’ 17<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. A pro-life conservative and Lifetime member of the NRA, Van received the endorsement of the National Right to Life Coalition and an “A” rating from the NRA. Taylor has a long history of serving the Republican Party, including attending national conventions, serving as a delegate to Texas Republican State conventions, volunteering on Republican campaigns across Texas and providing financial support to Republican candidates. In Plano, he is a Republican Precinct Chairman and serves on the Collin County Republican Party Executive Committee. Taylor also serves as the state chairman for the National Defense Committee as well as a state Vice Captain for Vets for Freedom.

Van and his wife Anne married after his return from Iraq and are the proud parents of Laura, 4, Helen, 3, and two-month old Susie, the latest blessing to the Taylor family. A lifelong Episcopalian, Van and his family reside in Plano near the land which his great-grandfather farmed during the Great Depression.

Pol. Adv. Paid for by Van Taylor Campaign