

Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott to Inspire Prairie View A&MU At 2008 Spring Graduating Class

By **BRYCE H. KENNARD**
Public Relations Specialist

Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott will address members of the class of 2008 during Prairie View A&M University's 127th commencement exercises to be held Saturday, May 10 in the William "Billy" J. Nicks, Sr. Health & Physical Education Building.

This year the university is preparing to confer degrees on nearly 900 candidates from its nine colleges and schools during two commencement exercises. University officials are preparing for the largest graduating class in the university's history, which will include doctoral degree candidates from the university's juvenile justice and educational leadership programs.

Attorney General Abbott is scheduled to deliver the commencement address during the university's 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. commencement ceremonies. Both ceremonies will be held in the William "Billy" J. Nicks, Sr. Health & Physical Education Building.

"We are pleased to have Attorney General Abbott share words of wisdom with our spring graduates. His pioneering work in law and public service are testaments to his commitment to justice. I am confident he will deliver true inspiration to our graduates, that will greatly impact their lives and future goals," states President George C. Wright.

The commencement ceremony for the College of Arts & Sciences, College of Business, the Whitlowe R. Green College of

Education and College of Engineering will be held Saturday, May 10 at 9:00 a.m.

The second ceremony for the Graduate School, College of Agriculture and Human Sciences, School of Architecture, College of Juvenile Justice and Psychology and the College of Nursing will be held Saturday, May 10 at 1:00 p.m.

During both commencement ceremonies, the university will present its annual Humanitarian Award to a PVAMU student and non-student. The awardees will be announced and presented during both ceremonies. Since 2005, the PVAMU Humanitarian Award has honored individuals whose lives reflect their dedication to high humanitarian principles and whose lives exemplify a spirit of love and helpfulness to others.

Media interested in covering PVAMU's 2008 spring commencement exercises should contact the University Relations Office at (936) 261-2134.

Greg Abbott, Attorney General of Texas will address the Prairie View A&M University spring 2008 graduating class.

About Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott:

Attorney General Greg Abbott was reelected as the 50th Attorney General of Texas on November 7, 2006. Prior to his election as attorney general, Greg Abbott served as a Justice on the Texas Supreme Court and as a State District Judge in Harris County. As the state's chief law enforcement official, Attorney General Abbott has made protect-



Courtesy of the Office of Attorney General Greg Abbott

ing families and values the focus of his administration. Shortly after taking office, Attorney General Abbott established a Cyber Crimes Unit to arrest criminals who use the Internet to prey upon children; a Fugitive Unit to arrest convicted sex offenders who violate their parole; and an expanded Medicaid Fraud Control Unit to crack down on elder abuse and waste of taxpayer dollars. Since taking office, General Abbott has collected more than \$9.2 billion in child support for Texas children.

In his capacity as the state's lawyer, Attorney General Abbott oversees nearly 700 attorneys who represent the State of Texas. General Abbott has personally appeared in courtrooms around the state and has obtained indictments against criminals charged with offenses ranging from attempted aggravated assault of a child to capital murder.

General Abbott's career in

public service began in Houston, where he served as a highly rated state trial judge in the 129th District Court for three years. In 1995, then-Governor George W. Bush appointed General Abbott to the Texas Supreme Court, where he served with distinction.

A native Texan, Attorney General Abbott was born in Wichita Falls and raised in Duncanville. After graduating from the University of Texas with a bachelor's degree in Finance, he received his law degree from Vanderbilt University. Shortly after graduating from law

school, he was partially paralyzed by a falling tree while jogging. He and his wife, Cecilia, a former school teacher and principal, have been married for 26 years. They live in Austin with their eleven-year-old daughter, Audrey.



An Army Honor Guard from San Antonio provides a 3-volley military gun salute during SSgt. Hartley's graveside services on Saturday. An AH-64 Apache fighter helicopter flew overhead moments before the salute.

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guish Lights (Lights Out) at the end of the military day.

An AH-64 Apache fighter helicopter flew over the funeral procession from the funeral home to the cemetery and continued flying over the burial site numerous times in a show of honor and protection for SSgt. Hartley.

The entrance to the road leading to the cemetery was

draped with a large American flag held up by two large ladder fire trucks, one from Cypress Creek EMS and the other from Tomball Fire and Rescue. Police Officers, Sheriff's Deputies, Department of Public Safety (DPS) Troopers, Fire Fighters, and EMS members were on hand from local and surrounding departments in a show of solidarity to SSgt. Hartley's family.

SSgt. Hartley is the son of David Hartley, a 16 year veteran of the Hempstead Police Department.

A scholarship fund has been opened in Hartley's name at Prosperity Bank. Anyone wishing to contribute may do so by contacting either of the two local branches of Prosperity Bank in Hempstead and in Waller.

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