

**Texas Senate's Veterans Affairs and
Military Installations Committee
August 24th Hearing**

**James Rickel
Regional Liaison**

10 Key QoL Issues (2010)

- ✓ Increase key support for Guard and Reserve members and their families (Best Practices) Currently not rated
- ✓ Ensure deployment separation does not determine child custody decisions TX
- ✓ Increase access to quality, affordable childcare for military families Pilot State
- ✓ Minimize school disruption for military children during transition and deployment TX
- ✓ Enhance opportunities for portable careers for military spouses Currently not rated
- ✓ Expand unemployment compensation for trailing military spouses TX
- ✓ Promote enforcement of the predatory lending regulation TX
- ✓ Improve absentee voting for military members and their families TX
- ✓ Comport state laws with DoD rules on disposition TX
- ✓ Enhance foreign language capability through 'Centers of Influence' TX

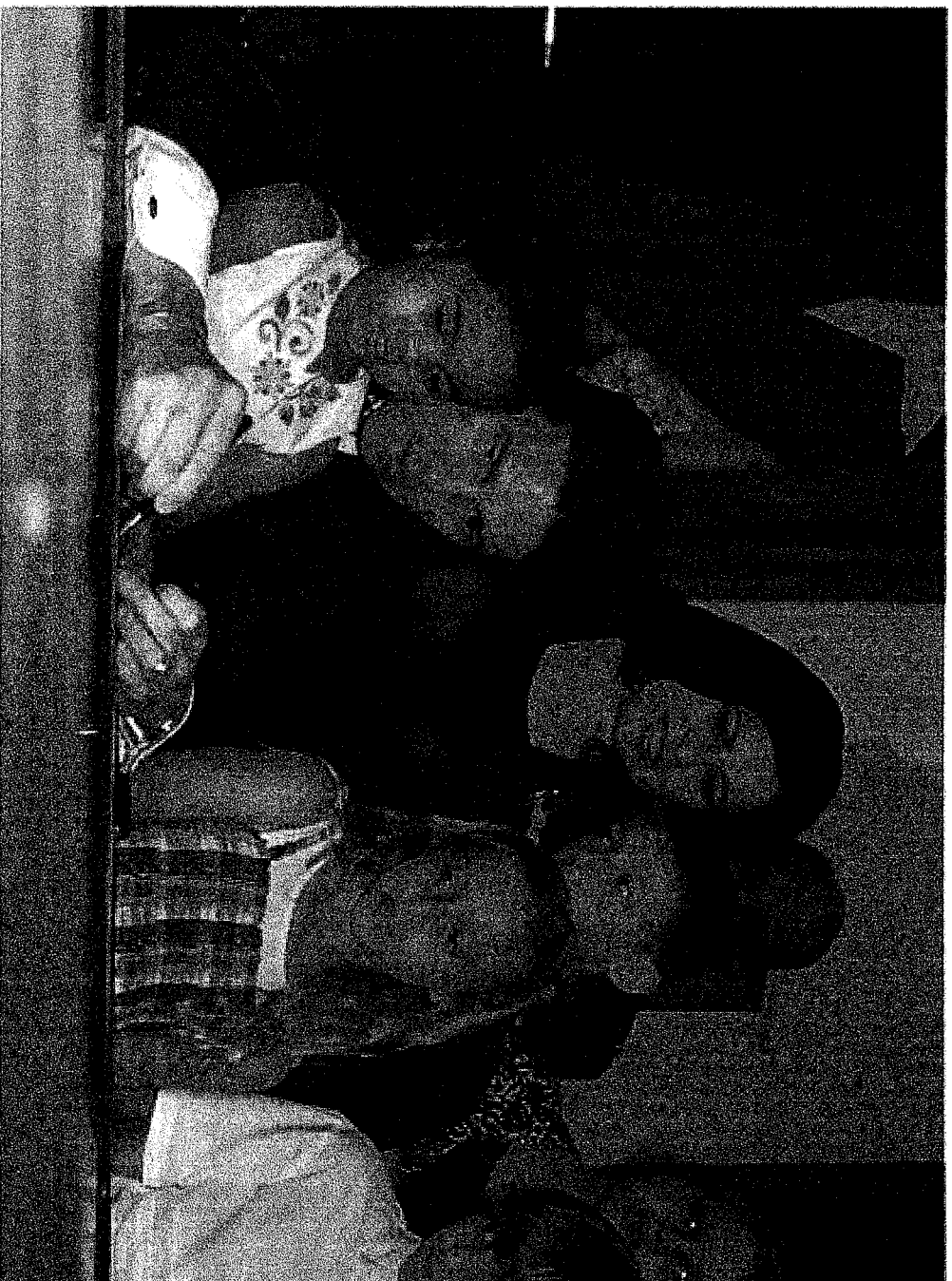
10 Key QoL Issues (2010)

- ✓ Ensure deployment separation does not determine child custody decisions
 - No permanent custody orders
 - Allow for expedited/electronic hearings for deployed parents
- ✓ Increase access to quality, affordable childcare for military families
 - TX designated one of 13 pilot states
 - Establish a DoD-funded child care liaison to work with state officials
- ✓ Promote enforcement of the predatory lending regulation
 - ✓ DoD Regulation (32 CFR Part 232) places 36% APR limit on payday, vehicle title and refund anticipation loans.
 - Require authority for payday loans
 - Unsuccessful in 2009 – opposition from Credit Service Organizations
 - Legislation sponsored by Rep Farias
 - Discussed with Leslie L. Pettijohn, Commissioner, as a possibility

10 Key QoL Issues (2010)

- ✓ Improve absentee voting for military members and their families
 - Email/On-line transmission of voting materials (MOVE Act)
 - Expand use of the Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot
 - Provide emergency authority to the Chief Election Official
 - Late registration procedures
 - Enfranchise Citizens Who Have Never Resided in the U.S.
- ✓ Comport state laws with DoD rules on disposition
 - Section 564 of Public Law 109-163, effective January 2006, requires active duty SMs to designate a person authorized to direct disposition of human remains (PADD)...occurs on DD Form 93 (Record of Emergency Data)
 - Requires DD Form 93 be recognized in TX Stat. § 711.002

Our goal is to partner with states to help our members and their families!



www.USAMilitaryFamilies.org

DSL O Staff

Liaison/Location	Phone	Email
Ed Kringer, Director	703-602-4949	ed.kringer@osd.mil
Marcus Beauregard, Chief, DSL O	703-602-4949	marcus.beauregard@osd.mil
Tom Hinton, Senior State Liaison	540-907-1874	tom.hinton.ctr@osd.mil
Harold Cooney/Carlisle PA	610-442-5880	harold.cooney@gmail.com
Julie Gifford/Norfolk, VA	757-619-7868	julgifford@cox.net
Kevin Bruch/North Charleston, SC	843-327-9939	kbruch@sc.rr.com
Eric Sherman/Jacksonville, FL	904-537-6273	essherman@bellsouth.net
Martin Dempsey/Abilene, KS	785-342-2280	martin.dempsey@sbcglobal.net
James Rickel/El Paso, TX	206-799-2867	jdricke1@yahoo.com
Jackie Harriman/Colorado Springs, CO	719-651-9266	jackieharriman@aol.com
Dale Vande Hey/San Antonio, TX	210-279-7997	vandehydslo@gmail.com
Laurie Crehan/San Diego, CA	858-274-3314	lcrehan@juno.com
Mark San Souci/Lakewood, WA	253-273-2214	sansouci01@comcast.net

www.USAmilitaryfamilies.org