

Association of Texas Professional Educators

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Supporting Your Freedom to TeachSM

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ATPE to Honor Reps. Hopson and Merritt with Award

Local lawmakers to be recognized for supporting public education

The state's largest teachers' group, the Association of Texas Professional Educators, will present Rep. Chuck Hopson (D-Jacksonville) and Rep. Tommy Merritt (R-Longview) with ATPE's Freedom to Teach Award at a ceremony Oct. 25. The Freedom to Teach Award is a special honor given to legislators who have demonstrated outstanding public policy leadership in public education. Hopson and Merritt are receiving this award because of their unwavering support for public education during the 79th Legislature's regular session and the three subsequent special sessions on education. ATPE encourages educators to attend the presentation.

According to ATPE Executive Director Doug Rogers, Merritt was the only Republican lawmaker who supported public education throughout all key votes taken in 2005. Rogers praised Hopson for his voting record and his efforts to restore health insurance funding for educators. "Both of these legislators have been great leaders in public education, and we appreciate their hard work," added Rogers.

The award will be presented by local ATPE officers and educators during a meeting Wednesday.

Event Details: 3:30 p.m. - Wednesday, Oct. 25
Nichols Intermediate School Library
818 SE Loop 456
Jacksonville, TX

About ATPE: The 106,000-member Association of Texas Professional Educators is the largest educators' group in Texas and the largest non-union group nationwide. Its membership consists primarily of classroom teachers but also includes para-educators, administrators, college students and retired educators. ATPE is committed to advocating for better benefits for all educators, promoting a collaborative work environment, protecting the right of educators to choose the association they feel represents their interests, and providing the best education possible for all Texas children.