



SENATOR PAUL BETTENCOURT

DISTRICT 7

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Sen. Bettencourt Welcomes Special 'Governor for a Day' Honoree at the Texas Capitol *Lauds Sen. Eltife's expression of support for a young cancer patient*

AUSTIN – Sen. Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) today joined fellow Sen. Kevin Eltife (R-Tyler) at the Texas Capitol to meet and welcome 11-year-old Damon Billeck as the honorary Governor for a Day. Damon, an 11-year-old pediatric patient at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, held the honorary title today at the request of Senate President Pro Tempore Sen. Eltife, who traditionally would have assumed the honorary title of Governor for a Day.

"Thanks to Damon Billeck for his service as the honorary Texas Governor for a Day," Sen. Bettencourt said. **"Each and every day, Damon bravely faces health challenges that have affected his young life, and today he is leading the great state of Texas! Sen. Kevin Eltife recognized this young man's courageous journey and in a classy way, provided Damon the unique opportunity to be Texas Governor for a Day."**

Texas tradition holds that each legislative session's President Pro Tem gets the honor of being governor for at least one day. The Governor for a Day is expected to fulfill the duties of the Texas governor if Gov. Greg Abbott and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick are simultaneously out of the state. President Pro Tem Eltife, who is retiring from the Texas Senate, decided to give the honorary title and opportunity to young Damon.

"I sat next to Sen. Eltife on the Senate floor in his last legislative session, and that's just the type of person Kevin is – a citizen legislator who cares deeply about all Texans in need," Sen. Bettencourt said. **"I commend Sen. Eltife for his service to the state of Texas and for brightening the day of this young man who is courageously fighting cancer."**

Friday's celebration for Damon and his family at the Texas Capitol will begin with a visit to the governor's office followed by a luncheon. Damon's Governor for a Day experience will also include a tour of the governor's mansion.

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