



Rodney Alexander / Louisiana's 5th District
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Contact: Jenni Terry
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Alexander Spends Day With White House Fellow, Bastrop Native



U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Stacey L. Hawkins, a Bastrop native currently serving in the prestigious White House Fellows program, spent a day observing U.S. Rep. Rodney Alexander.

WASHINGTON, D.C. – For one whole day, U.S. Rep. Rodney Alexander, R-Quitman, experienced what it is like to have a representative of the White House following him.

In this case, it was U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Stacey L. Hawkins, a Bastrop native currently serving in the prestigious White House Fellows program.

Hawkins, a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy who has served in the military for 17 years, has deep ties to the 5th Congressional District of Louisiana – his father is Bastrop Mayor Clarence Hawkins – and was eager to spend a day with Rep. Alexander to learn more about the federal appropriations process as well as the latest news and concerns of his home region.

“I’m grateful for Congressman Alexander’s generosity in allowing me to observe the inner-workings of Congress,” Hawkins said.

“The Congressman and his entire staff were exceptional hosts and made me feel at home with Louisianan hospitality.”

Alexander said it was an honor to spend the day with Hawkins.

“Young men like Stacey represent the best the United States has to offer, and I am proud to say that he is from Bastrop,” Alexander said.

Adopted in 1965 by the President’s Commission on White House Fellowships, the purpose of the White House Fellows program is to provide gifted and highly motivated young Americans with first-hand experience in the process of governing the Nation and a sense of personal involvement in the leadership of society.

“It’s an opportunity to get a different view of the world,” Hawkins said of his time as a Fellow, which began in September 2007 and will conclude in August 2008.

According to the official White House Web site, selection as a White House Fellow is based on a combination of the following criteria: a record of remarkable professional achievement early in one’s career, evidence of leadership skills and the potential for further growth, a demonstrated commitment to public service, and the knowledge and skills necessary to contribute successfully at the highest levels of the federal government.

Hawkins fits the mold.

During his time in the military, Hawkins has served tours with the Presidential Honor Guard, the “Thunderbirds” aerial demonstration team, and as a combat Deputy Group Commander supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. Hawkins was the top graduate from Squadron Officer School and one of “Ten Outstanding Young Americans” honored by the U.S. Jaycees for community service achievements.

After graduating from the US Air Force Academy, he earned an MA, with distinction, from The George Washington University. He holds additional graduate degrees from the Air Command and Staff College and School of Advanced Air and Space Studies.

For his year-long fellowship, Hawkins is assigned to the Small Business Administration, an area he said he finds particularly interesting, given his understanding of how critical small businesses are in regions such as North Louisiana.

“This is an experience to learn about the worlds of business and finance and what makes our economy work,” Hawkins said, adding that many graduates of the Fellowship program return to their home regions to communicate what they’ve learned and to give back.

Hawkins said he and his wife, Natalie, a graduate of then-Northeast Louisiana University, believe their experiences during his time in the military are steering them and their two children in that very direction.

“When we think about where these experiences are leading, they’re leading back to Louisiana,” Hawkins said. “That’s where our heart is.”

Before then, Hawkins does have at least one other impressive assignment ahead of him. Upon the conclusion of his White House Fellowship, Hawkins will serve Staff Secretary in the office of the Vice President.

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