

## Bill White candidate for Texas governor makes local stop at Rusk Church



Voters and local elected officials listen attentively as Bill White addresses the crowd. Local news reporters and Dallas Morning news cover the



Walter Session, Rusk Mayor Protem and Mt. Pleasant church member exchange greetings with Bill

The Cherokee County Democratic Party and the Cherokee Brotherhood Association teamed up to make local East Texas campaign visits from Bill White a reality. The former Houston, Texas Mayor and candidate for Texas governor made history as he stopped at Mt. Pleasant Methodist Church in the small city of Rusk, Texas.

The parking area at Mt. Pleasant church and the inside of the church was filled with a crowd of anxious voters who waited patiently for the candidate to arrive, greeting him warmly as he and his entourage entered the building. Oliver Sturns, President of Cherokee Brotherhood Association acted as MC.

The session opened with prayer led by Minister Jerry Leviston and Walter Session Rusk Mayor Pro tem introduced White. The audience sat quietly and listened as he spoke of what he thinks can be done to make Texas a better place for Texas citizens to live. A question and answer session followed.

White was asked what he thought of Rick Perry tuning down federal stimulus dollars that has impacted the cutting of Texas education budget and the loss of many teaching positions around

the state. He was also asked what his thoughts were on the proposed state budget cuts that would cut 45 Rusk State Hospital patient beds and 100 employee positions. "Texas taxpayer dollars should go to Texas and not other states", was his answer.. "Rick Perry is living in a \$10,000.00

a month rented home while many Texans are having trouble making ends meet," White said.

He also told the crowd we need a governor who will serve the state, not someone who feels he is better than you". At the time of White's visit to Rusk, he and Texas Governor Rick

Perry were tied at 43% in the polls as shown by Public Policy Polling.

Bill White made a campaign stop in Palestine before coming to Rusk and went immediately to tour the Cherokee County Courthouse following the stop at Mt. Pleasant Church.

DA Elmer Beckworth and County Attorney Craig Caldwell were among local elected officials attending along with candidates Dr. Richard Hackney, State Representative District 11, Justice of the peace Teresa Phifer, who is up for re-election and Marlene Jowels, candidate for Cherokee County Judge.