

May 27, 2004

Akin Announces New Staff Line-Up in Washington Office

Washington, D.C. - U.S. Rep. Todd Akin has made some recent additions to his Washington office staff as other staffers move on to other things. "I'm so very proud of the outstanding men and women who serve on behalf of Missouri's Second District," Akin said. "The people we have added to our D.C. staff complement the terrific team we have in St. Louis, and I look forward to great things from this fine team of talented, energetic and capable professionals."

The new staff list includes the following:

- **Joe Laird** has joined on as Akin's Military Legislative Assistant. Laird replaces **Elizabeth Sharp** who is getting married in June and who will be moving to Norfolk with her husband, Army Captain Paul Weyrauch, as he begins a military graduate program there. Laird comes to Akin's staff from the office of U.S. Sen. Mike Enzi (R-WY). He is completing a graduate degree at the U.S. Naval War College and also serves as a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force Auxiliary, Civil Air Patrol. Although Laird hails from Wyoming, he brings strong Missouri connections to his new post: His wife is a Show-Me State native and graduate of the University of Missouri School of Law.
- **Autumn Fredericks** has come on board as Akin's Legislative Assistant for pro-life, human rights, global hunger, AIDS and telecommunications issues. Previously on the staff of U.S. Rep. Dave Weldon (R-FL) and a page for U.S. Sen. Trent Lott (R-MS), Fredericks is a graduate of Georgia's Covenant College. She replaces Tom Carpenter, who has gone to Wexler & Walker Public Policy Associates to serve with former House Science Committee Chairman Bob Walker (R-PA).
- **Tressa Merola** replaces **Amanda Carmen Akin** as the Congressman's Executive Assistant/Scheduler. Merola, who served as Sales and Licensing Coordinator for the Emess Design Group, is a graduate of Miami University of Ohio. She is a native of New Castle, Pennsylvania. **Amanda Akin**, who married Rep. Akin's son, Marine Second Lieutenant Perry B. Akin, last year, moved with her husband to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina earlier this year.
- **Josh Graham**, who joined Akin's staff in October 2003, has been promoted from Staff Assistant to Legislative Aide. He will be covering Department of Interior, Federal/Postal Employee, welfare, housing and animal rights issues. Graham spent a number of his formative years in Kirksville, MO, where his father was athletic director at Truman State University. He previously served with Hands Along the Nile Development Services, which promoted community development and women's rights in Egypt. Graham is a graduate of Biola University in the Los Angeles area and completed a graduate certificate in Advanced International Affairs at Texas A&M's Bush School of Government and Public Service.

