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LEATHERWOOD REACTS TO BLACKBURN'S FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

TENNESSEE- Tom Leatherwood, running in the Republican primary for the 7th District Congressional seat, has responded to the recent financial filings by his primary opponent, Congresswoman Marsha Blackburn.

In the most recent Federal Election Commission disclosure statements, Blackburn failed to report over \$286,000 -- including over \$100,000 in campaign contributions. Another unreported \$50,000 was considered "accounting errors." This is not the first time Blackburn's office has encountered financial problems. Incumbent Blackburn has already been fined by the Federal Election Commission for exceeding the federal limits for transferring money from her PAC bank account to her campaign bank account. Previously, she was also caught under-reporting contributions by over \$61,000 and failing to accurately report over \$50,000 in disbursements.

"This is not surprising, but it is disturbing to hear that Rep. Blackburn has under-reported campaign contributions and expenses, again. She has shown a terrible pattern of self service and financial mismanagement. Perhaps incumbent Blackburn's lack of diligence to financial accountability could explain her role in the soaring deficit since being elected to Congress in 2002," Leatherwood said. He continued, "Now we see that while many families are struggling just to make the monthly budget in this poor economy, Congresswoman Blackburn has misplaced over a quarter of a million dollars. If we can't trust her to manage her own budget how can we trust her to manage our tax dollars?"

"That Marsha Blackburn cannot account for such a huge sum of money that people have contributed to her is either a sign of highly unethical behavior or incompetence. This is beyond carelessness. Where is that money? On what was it spent? The 7th district deserves to know the answers to these questions, and to have a responsible and effective Congressman."

Also reported in these disclosures were payments of over \$20,000 to her immediate family; Blackburn's daughter and son-in-law received over \$18,000, while herself, her husband, or son took in over \$3,000. As with the Congresswoman's under-reporting, this too is nothing new. In 2006, it came to light that her son-in-law's political consulting firm received over \$123,000 in campaign funds. In the 2004 election cycle, \$46,935 was paid to her family, when Blackburn did not have a primary or general election opponent.

Leatherwood also stated, "As Tennesseans, we are weary of the names of our elected officials being in the spotlight for their personal behavior that betrays our

public trust. I want the opportunity to help restore that trust and work hard for the 7th District with integrity and commitment to fiscal responsibility."

Leatherwood has served Tennessee as an elected official for over 16 years, and has established a record of being responsible and trustworthy. "I have never been warned, reprimanded or fined for mismanagement of money entrusted to me -- campaign money or taxpayer money." "Also, while in the State Senate on the finance committee, we balanced the budget every year." said Leatherwood. As Register of Deeds, Leatherwood has streamlined the office, cut expenses, and reduced customer fees. The office runs on fees at no cost to the taxpayer and produces surpluses for the county.

Tom Leatherwood is married to Melissa Mills Leatherwood of McNairy County. They have four daughters and are active members of Faith Baptist Church in Bartlett.

Anyone interested in helping with the campaign may contact Tom at 901-867-7780 or tomleatherwood@bellsouth.net . They may also write to: Tom Leatherwood for Congress, P.O. Box 738, Arlington, TN 38002.

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