

# Lawsuit reform hailed as 'greatest accomplishment' during annual meeting

FORT SILL — The U.S. military and business leaders across the state were honored last week at The State Chamber of Oklahoma's Annual Meeting.

Lt. Gen. David P. Valcourt, the Deputy Commanding General/Chief of Staff of the Army Training and Doctrine Command in Virginia, delivered the keynote address.

Valcourt, who discussed how military leadership can be used in the business world, was introduced by Fort Sill Commander, Maj. Gen. Peter M. Vangjel. Valcourt served as com-

manding general of the U.S. Army Field Artillery Center and Fort Sill from December 2003 to August 2005.

Senate President Pro Tem Glenn Coffee and H.J. Reed, chairman of The State Chamber's leg-

islative affairs committee, joined The State Chamber's lobby team to recap the 2009 legislative session.

The State Chamber gave the session an "A-minus." Lawsuit reform was called the session's greatest accomplishment. The reform package would compensate injured Oklahomans while discouraging frivolous lawsuits.

Access to affordable health care should increase, as Oklahomans should no longer lose doctors and nurses to states with better laws.

"This was definitely a strong y... .."

Oklahomans priority to use Oklahoma water while opening the door for future water sales to others if they meet certain statutory criteria.

►SB 222: Department of Education accountability changes will ensure student testing and data gathering is more accurate and accessible to the public.

►SB 313: This legislation will extend tax incentives until July 1, 2012, for the state's oil and natural gas industry.

The State Chamber also supported tax credits for alternative energy sources and killed more than a dozen bad bills.

Oklahoman! premium assistance program to accept high-deductible plans, which are accompanied with health savings accounts.

►HB 1127: Funding for Tulsa's Oklahoma State University Medical Center guarantees osteopathic physicians who often work in rural and underserved areas.

►Senate Bill 938: The 21st Century Quality Jobs Act allows cities, towns and counties to pool resources on economic development projects. The bill should attract high-paying jobs in growth industries.

►HB 1483: Gives



David Valcourt

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