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### **Louisiana Legislators Lauded at Legis-Gator Luncheon**

Lake Charles, LA – Over 50 awards were distributed at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Chamber SWLA Legis-Gator Luncheon. Governor Bobby Jindal provided this year’s Keynote Address and took home the Chamber SWLA’s first Appreciation Award for his efforts this year during our budget shortfalls and Gulf Coast oil spill crisis. Other speakers included U.S. Senator David Vitter, and U.S. Representatives Charles Boustany, John Fleming, and Charlie Melancon. In attendance were Public Service Commissioner Clyde Holloway, Agriculture Commissioner Mike Strain, Baton Rouge Mayor Kip Holden, and the fifty-five members of the Louisiana Legislative Delegation who were recognized at this year’s luncheon.

The Chamber SWLA Legis-Gator recapped legislation efforts undertaken in 2010 and recognized legislators across the state for working on pro-business, pro-Southwest Louisiana legislation. This year, Business Champion Awards were awarded to Federal and State legislators who have promoted pro-business legislation which targeted transportation, insurance and ethics reform, workforce development, and other issues we have been monitoring in Washington, D.C. and Baton Rouge.

Over the past 4 years, 70 Federal and State legislators have been recognized for their pro-business legislation over the past four years.

This year’s Business Champions were

**Senate:**

Sen. Robert Adley of Benton	Vice Chairman of Revenue & Fiscal Affairs
Sen. John Alario of Westwego	
Sen. Norby Chabert of Houma	
Sen. Butch Gautreaux of Morgan City	Chairman of Retirement
Sen. Elbert Guillory of Opelousas	Vice Chairman of Retirement
Sen. Troy Hebert of New Iberia	Chairman of the Senate Insurance Cmte
Sen. Mike Michot of Lafayette	Chairman of Finance
Sen. Blade Morrish of Lake Charles	Vice Chairman of Natural Resources
Sen. Willie Mount of Lake Charles	Chair of the Health and Welfare Cmte
Sen. Ed Murray of New Orleans	Vice Chairman of Labor and Industry
Sen. Neil Riser of Columbia	Chairman of Labor and Industry
Sen. John Smith of Leesville	Vice Chairman of Senate Governmental Affairs
Sen. Mike Walsworth of Monroe	Vice Chair of Agriculture

**House of Representatives:**

Rep. James Armes of Leesville	
Rep. Jeff Arnold of New Orleans	House Commerce Chairman
Rep. Taylor Barras of New Iberia	

Rep. Jared Brossett of New Orleans	
Rep. Steve Carter of Baton Rouge	
Rep. Simone Champagne of Jeanerette	
Rep. Page Cortez of Lafayette	
Rep. Mike Danahay of Sulphur	
Rep. Jean Doerge of Minden	Vice Chair of Retirement
Rep. Franklin Foil of Baton Rouge	
Rep. A.B. Franklin of Lake Charles	
Rep. Rick Gallot of Ruston	Chairman of House & Governmental Affairs
Rep. Brett Geymann of Lake Charles	
Rep. Hunter Greene of Baton Rouge	Chairman of Ways & Means
Rep. Mickey Guillory of Eunice	
Rep. Johnny Guinn of Jennings	
Rep. Dorothy Sue Hill of Dry Creek	
Rep. Michael Jackson of Baton Rouge	
Rep. Kay Katz of Monroe	House Health and Welfare Chair
Rep. Chuck Kleckley of Lake Charles	Chairman of Insurance
Rep. Nancy Landry of Lafayette	
Rep. Walter Leger of New Orleans	
Rep. Anthony Ligi of Metairie	
Rep. Fred Mills of Parks	
Rep. Nickie Monica of LaPlace	
Rep. Barbara Norton of Shreveport	
Rep. Rick Nowlin of Natchitoches	Vice Chairman of Health and Welfare
Rep. Kevin Pearson of Slidell	
Rep. Jonathan Perry of Abbeville	Chair of the Acadiana Delegation
Rep. J. Rogers Pope of Denham Springs	
Rep. Jerome Richard of Thibodeaux	
Rep. Chris Roy of Alexandria	
Rep. John Schroder of Covington	
Rep. Mert Smiley of Port Vincent	Vice Chairman of House & Governmental Affairs
Rep. Jane Smith of Bossier City	Vice Chair of Ways & Means
Rep. Patricia Smith of Baton Rouge	
Rep. Karen St. Germain of Pierre Part	Vice Chair of the House Natural Resources Cmte
Rep. Major Thibaut of New Roads	
Rep. Ledricka Thierry of Opelousas	
Rep. Patrick Williams of Shreveport	
Rep. Tom Willmott of Kenner	
Rep. Ernest Wooten of Belle Chase	Chair of Administration of Criminal Justice,

This year's Governmental Chair Award Winners were State Senator John Smith and Representative Mike Danahay. Both legislators voted along with the Chamber SWLA's legislative agenda 88% of the time.

This year's Chair Award Winner was Representative Chuck Kleckley for his legislation to reduce the high number of uninsured Louisiana residents and improve healthcare.

This year's Legis-Gator of the Year was Senator Mike Michot who through his position as Chairman of the Finance Committee truly exhibited innovative leadership through the serious financial challenges affecting the state in 2010.

This year's Title Sponsor is L'Auberge du Lac Casino Resort, the Presenting Sponsor is CITGO Lake Charles\*, our Golden Gator is Acadian Ambulance, and our Bayou Backers are Cameron LNG, Cameron Parish, Cameron State Bank, Chennault International Airport, First Federal Bank, Jeff Davis Bank, Stockwell, Sievert Law Firm, Cheniere\*, ConocoPhillips\*, The Port of Lake Charles, and Tobacco Free Living\*.

The Chamber SWLA supports the initiatives of REEL, Coalition for Common Sense, BILD, La Ethics 1, GEST, Blueprint Louisiana, Driving Louisiana Forward, and the Coalition to Insure Louisiana.

*\* These businesses are also year-long Friends of Advocacy Sponsors of the Chamber SWLA.*

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