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2007 LEGISLATIVE SESSION WRAP-UP

**SEN. MARIONNEAUX ANNOUNCES OVER \$24 MILLION IN
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS HEADED TO WEST BATON ROUGE PARISH**

District 17 State Senator Robert Marionneau, Jr. (D-Livonia) has announced the results of this year's legislative session and declares it a success for West Baton Rouge Parish.

West Baton Rouge parish will see an array of projects and improvements as a result of the 2007 legislative session totaling \$24,303,000.00. From HB 2, \$23,663,000.00 was allocated to the parish for projects such as water well and water distribution improvements, high school renovations, and a Fire Station in Brusly. West Baton Rouge Parish will also receive \$640,000.00 from HB 1 for West Baton Rouge Council on Aging, Community Development Corporation, and sales tax dedications.

Several major initiatives were also funded in the budget for the 2007-08 Fiscal year, such as \$157.6 million for teachers to reach the southern regional average, an average of \$4,057.00 per year for West Baton Rouge Parish teachers, \$30 million for higher education, \$33.9 million for support workers, an average of \$1,000.00 per year, 142.6 million for state employees, an average of \$1,500.00 each, \$35.1 million for corrections, probation and parole officers, \$28.3 million for supplemental pay for police and firefighters, raising the monthly supplemental pay from \$300.00 to \$450.00.

"I am happy with the outcome of this session and that we were able to pass these bills which include significant appropriations for the parish. Representatives Don Cazayoux, Karen St. Germain, and Regina Barrow really helped guide these allocations through the process." said Sen. Robert Marionneau.

The projects listed in HB 2, the state capital outlay bill, details how cash and revenue from state bond sales will be used in the 2007-2008 fiscal year for construction, renovation and repair projects throughout the state. The projects included in HB 2 for West Baton Rouge parish totaled \$23,663,000.00 and include:

-Greater Baton Rouge Port Commission	
Port Jurisdiction (East Baton Rouge, West Baton Rouge, Iberville, and Ascension Parishes) Security Improvements, Planning and Construction	\$ 3,870,000.00
Grain Handling and Terminating Improvements to Serve Ethanol Plants and LSU Biofuels Research Facilities, Planning and Construction	\$15,000,000.00
Maritime Security Operations Center, Planning and Construction	\$ 2,000,000.00
-West Baton Rouge Parish	
Water Distribution Improvements, Planning and Construction	\$ 740,000.00
Covered Riding Arena	\$ 100,000.00

-Port Allen	
Avenue D Water Well, Planning and Construction	\$ 765,000.00
-DOCDHL, Inc.	
Cohn Senior High Renovation, Planning and Construction	\$ 500,000.00
-YMCA of the Capital Area	
Westwide YMCA, Planning and Construction	\$ 500,000.00
-West Baton Rouge Fire Protection #2	
Brusly Fire Station 2, Planning and Construction	\$ 188,000.00

Lawmakers approve the capital outlay bill every year, but the projects listed in the bill do not move forward until the State Bond Commission gives its approval.

Also passed was HB 1, the general operating budget for the State of Louisiana which is now \$29.7 billion dollars. This figure represents a 3.13 percent increase from last year's budget due to the disaster recovery funds from the federal government. This amount includes \$8.4 billion in federal revenue for hurricane recovery. Included in HB 1 were monies for West Baton Rouge Parish, which totaled \$640,000. Those monies include:

-West Baton Rouge Parish Visitor Enterprise Fund	\$300,000.00
-West Baton Rouge Council on Aging	\$ 10,000.00
-Sales Tax Dedications	\$ 300,000.00
-DOC-DHL	\$ 10,000.00
-West Baton Rouge Historical Association	\$ 10,000.00
-Port Allen Community Development Corporation	\$ 10,000.00

Sen. Marionneaux said, "These projects along with the funding associated with each will have a tremendous economic impact on the parish."

This legislative session Senator Marionneaux authored legislation that would establish an annual Louisiana Sales Tax Holiday (SB 3), grant an individual income tax deduction for elementary and secondary education tuition (SB 45) for monies expended to send their kids to private or parochial schools, require elected officials to disclose sources of their income (SB 157), and provide for stipends for military personnel killed or injured while on active duty (SB 158). Senator Marionneaux also authored a Senate Resolution for each Louisiana soldier killed in Iraq or Afghanistan, and honored the soldier and their family during Military Family Day at the Capitol.

For more information please refer to the legislative web site at: www.legis.state.la.us or contact Sen. Marionneaux at 225-637-3623.