

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: 06.30.2011

FROM: SEN. LONG

PHONE: 318.628.5799

SENATOR LONG PRAISES SENATOR MCPHERSON'S PUBLIC SERVICE

SENATOR MCPHERSON HONORED FOR LEGISLATIVE LEGACY

District 31 Senator Gerald Long (R-Winnfield) is recognizing District 29 Senator Joe McPherson's (D-Pineville) longtime service as a State Senator representing Rapides Parish. After serving in the Senate for twenty-four years, Senator McPherson is term limited and therefore his term expires in 2012. Sen. Long said, "I want to recognize Senator McPherson's faithful dedication to the people of District 29 and the people of this state. Senator McPherson has been an advocate for what is in the best interests of the citizens he represents. He leaves behind a legacy of service and commitment worthy of a true public servant."

A lifetime resident of Rapides Parish, Sen. McPherson graduated from Pineville High School and later received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Northwestern State University. During his time in the Senate, Sen. McPherson held the position of Chairman of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee, Senate Natural Resources Committee, Senate Labor and Industrial Relations Committee and the Senate Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works as well as Vice-Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. Sen. McPherson also served as a member of the Senate Committees on Agriculture, Local and Municipal Affairs, as well as the Senate Judiciary C Committee.

Sen. McPherson's better known legislative initiatives include those to promote economic development in Central Louisiana, as he sponsored legislation to establish the Alexandria Port Authority, the England Economic District and a four-year degree program at Louisiana State University at Alexandria. He also sponsored legislation to reform the way in which healthcare is provided. An avid outdoorsman, Sen. McPherson received the Governor's Award in 2005 for his conservation efforts which included legislation to protect the right of citizens to hunt and fish and to create three new wildlife management areas and was named the Legislative Conservationist of the Year on several occasions. He received the 2008 State Legislator of the Year award by the Safari Club International, was recognized by Ducks Unlimited and was instrumental in preserving public control of White Lake. Senator McPherson was also a proponent in protecting the rights of law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms and was recognized by the NRA. A staunch defender of landowners' rights, he authored a constitutional amendment in 2006 to protect private property from unjustified government expropriation.

During the recent special session to redraw congressional and legislative districts, Sen. McPherson offered legislation to keep all of Rapides Parish in the 5th Congressional District. Sen. Long said, "In each of his pieces of legislation, Senator McPherson has demonstrated that he has been committed to moving Central Louisiana forward and providing opportunities for the people of this region and the state as a whole. I want to thank him for his leadership and for his determination to always seek the best for the citizens of our state."

Because of redistricting changes, District 29 is set to be split, adding parts of Rapides Parish to three already-existing Senate districts and the rest comprising part of a new minority district. In response to these changes, Sen. McPherson said, “Redistricting did not treat Rapides Parish well. Fortunately, we retain Senator Long and Senator Riser with an enhanced presence in Rapides Parish with their seniority and expertise. Representing Rapides Parish for 24 years has been an honor and I am sincerely appreciative of having that opportunity.”

###