



Senator Gerald Long visited Evelyn Longino's civics class at Red River High School. On front row from left are Sidney Yearling, NaCara Hallmon, Precious Smith, Ayonna McDuffy and Marvin Venous. On back row are Dustin Taylor, Kendeyl Yearling, Longino, Kiley Canterbury, Jessica Solton, Long, Dominique LaBombe, Kelsey Longino, Shatalma Guye, Lacy Hays, Detreyon Bonner, Jasper Tagle, Keairrowa Thomas and Jeremy Smith.

Senator visits civics class

State **Senator Gerald Long** visited Evelyn Longino's Civics class at Red River High School as part of the America's Legislators Back to School Program. The program is designed to give legislators the opportunity to meet young constituents and listen to their concerns. Long taught Longino's fourth block Civics class Tuesday, Sept. 20.

He explained the legislative process and how legislators are often faced with the task of balancing the needs of their constituents with the needs of the state as a whole.

The students took part in a roll-play activity in which they were able to see first hand how difficult it is to get bills passed through the legislature. Long also stressed the need to compromise and that compromise is often necessary to get a bill passed. Students asked questions about issues that concern them such as the increase in college tuition, the TOPs program and the state's economy.

The visit gave students the opportunity to meet their senator personally and to learn what it is like to be a state leg-

islator. It also gave the students a better understanding of the legislative process and their opinions and ideas do count. Long encouraged the students to take a leadership role in their school and the community.

Long gave each student a State of Louisiana Senate lapel pin and gave the class a DVD on how individuals can become involved in the legislative process. Students gained a better understanding of how our nation's representative democracy works.



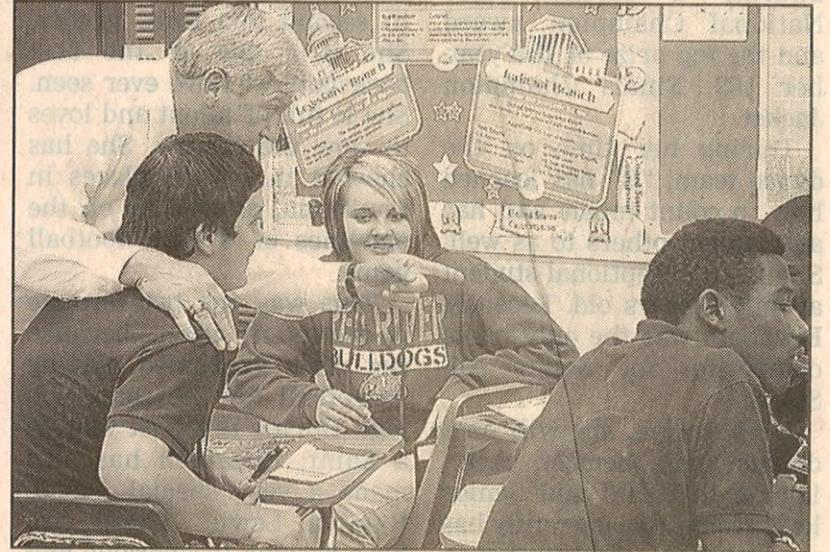
"Senator" Jessica Solton proposes a bill to the legislature.



Students discuss a scenarios presented by Sen. Gerald Long.



"Senator" Dominique LaBombe introduces a bill to the legislature



Sen. Long answers questions and presents political scenarios to Red River High School civics students.