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Release No.: 03192007-1

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## **\$3.6 MILLION IN RURAL HOME LOANS PROVIDED Sabine State Bank Honored for Housing Success**

ALEXANDRIA, March 19, 2007 – Clyde C. Holloway, State Director for USDA Rural Development in Louisiana, recently recognized Sabine State Bank for providing over \$3.6 million in Guaranteed Rural Housing Loan funds to rural home buyers in Louisiana during Fiscal Year 2006.

"The Guaranteed Rural Housing Loan Program helps many people in rural areas become homeowners," said Holloway. "We partner with local lenders to give eligible households an opportunity to purchase a home with no down payment."

Through this home financing program, USDA Rural Development guarantees home loan funds that are approved and provided by private lending institutions. Lenders must be approved by USDA Rural Development to participate in the program, and dwellings must be located in a rural area. Maps and lists of ineligible areas can be found at <http://eligibility.sc.egov.usda.gov>.

"Our hat is off to Sabine State Bank for their outstanding support of the Guaranteed Rural Housing Program and, most importantly, for getting people into homes of their own," said Holloway.

Forty-five lenders participated in the program in 2006, providing over \$105 million to assist 964 rural Louisiana households achieve homeownership.

USDA Rural Development provides a full range of rural development credit services in rural Louisiana. The USDA Rural Development State Office is located at 3727 Government Street, Alexandria, Louisiana 71302, and the telephone number is (318) 473-7921. There are four area offices located throughout the state to serve Louisiana residents. Further information on USDA Rural Development's loan and grant programs can be obtained by visiting USDA Rural Development's web site at: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>. USDA Rural Development is an equal opportunity lender, provider, and employer. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Washington, DC 20250-9140.

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Mary Lu Wilkerson, Guaranteed Rural Housing Specialist for USDA Rural Development in Natchitoches, Louisiana, presents Sabine State Bank with the agency's 2006 Bronze Award for providing over \$3.6 million in Guaranteed Rural Housing Loan funds to rural home buyers in Louisiana during Fiscal Year 2006. Pictured on the back row are (left to right): Karen Burditt, Sabine State Bank Mortgage Loan Officer (Leesville); ReBecca McPherson, Sabine State Bank Mortgage Loan Officer (Many); Lee McCann, Sabine State Bank President; Robert Gilbert, Sr., Sabine State Bank Senior Vice President and Mortgage Lending Manager; Mary Murphy, Sabine State Bank Mortgage Loan Officer (Many); and Sue Cutchall, Sabine State Bank Mortgage Loan Officer (Alexandria). Pictured on the front row are (left to right): Donna Redwine and Mary Lu Wilkerson of USDA Rural Development.