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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT CELEBRATES NATIONAL HOMEOWNERSHIP MONTH WITH LOCAL EVENTS Erath and Carencro Host Events

ERATH AND CARENCRO, June 19, 2007 – USDA Rural Development State Director Clyde Holloway was joined today in Erath and Carencro, Louisiana, for National Homeownership Month events by Washington, D.C., official David Villano. Villano serves as USDA Rural Development’s Deputy Administrator for Single Family Housing.

In Erath, Holloway and Villano planted a tree in Ann Nerren’s yard. In 2005, Ms. Nerren and her daughter lost their home during Hurricane Rita. Ms. Nerren lived with family members until she received a FEMA trailer to use as temporary housing. Ms. Nerren worked with USDA Rural Development to secure a direct home loan to construct a new home, and she and her daughter recently moved into their new home.

In Carencro, a tree was planted in Christopher and Jene Boulet’s yard. The Boulet’s recently moved into a new home financed through an innovative “construction to permanent” guaranteed home loan program that is a partnership effort between USDA Rural Development and JPMorgan Chase. This government/private partnership program was formed in response to the need to provide more affordable homes for people in rural areas.

“USDA Rural Development is hosting over 100 events nationwide to mark Homeownership Month,” said Holloway. “In Louisiana, we are spotlighting families who have worked hard to achieve homeownership in an effort to encourage others to give homeownership a try.”

The Louisiana Urban Forestry Council provided assistance in planting the trees and educating the new homeowners on tree care and maintenance.

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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