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## **USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDS AWARDED IN VERMILION PARISH Congressman Charles Boustany and State Director Clyde Holloway Present Funds for Fire/Police Station and Hospital Repairs/Equipment**

ERATH and ABBEVILLE, August 21, 2007 – Congressman Charles Boustany joined USDA Rural Development State Director Clyde Holloway today in Erath and Abbeville to present over \$4.1 million in federal funding for Vermilion Parish projects.

Over \$1.1 million in USDA Rural Development loan and grant funds were presented to the Town of Erath to construct a new fire and police station (\$1,075,000 loan funds and \$75,000 grant funds). The new facility will include offices and cells for the police department and five fire truck bays for the fire department. An emergency generator will also be installed to ensure the facility is operational during power outages.

\$3 million in USDA Rural Development loan and grant funds were presented to Hospital Service District 2 of Vermilion Parish for roof repairs and new equipment (\$2.5 million loan funds and \$500,000 grant funds). The hurricanes of 2005 caused roof damage to Abbeville General Hospital and increased the hospital patient load.

“Rural Development’s community facilities program offers funding for critical community facilities in rural areas—such as police and fire stations and hospitals,” said Holloway. “We are committed to making sure rural residents enjoy the same health and safety services as their city neighbors.”

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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