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FEDERAL GRANTS PRESENTED IN AVOYELLES PARISH Congressman Rodney Alexander and State Director Clyde Holloway Present Funding to Town of Mansura and Hessmer Volunteer Fire Department

MANSURA and HESSMER, August 25, 2008 – Congressman Rodney Alexander and USDA Rural Development State Director Clyde Holloway visited Avoyelles Parish today to present federal grant funds to the Town of Mansura for sidewalks and to the Hessmer Volunteer Fire Department for an emergency response vehicle.

“Rural Development is committed to improving the quality of life in rural areas,” said Holloway. “Something as simple as sidewalks can cause an economic revival in a community, and an emergency response vehicle can make the difference between life and death for someone.”

During ceremonies in both communities, the Town of Mansura was presented a USDA Rural Development Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) for \$150,690 to construct and renovate community sidewalks, and the Hessmer Volunteer Fire Department was presented a \$25,900 Community Facilities Grant to purchase an emergency response vehicle.

The Rural Business Enterprise Grant program provides grants for rural projects that finance and facilitate development of small and emerging rural businesses, and the Community Facilities Grant program provides grants to assist in the development of essential community facilities in rural areas. Both grant programs are available to public entities such as municipalities, parishes, and special purpose districts, as well as rural private non-profit corporations and tribal governments.

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, telephone (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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