



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

John Loudon
7th Senate District

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 422
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

**For Immediate Release:
Sept. 12, 2005**

**Contact: Mike Reid
(314) 895-0007**

Senator Loudon Inviting Hurricane Katrina Survivors to Chesterfield Facility

JEFFERSON CITY— Senator John Loudon, R-Chesterfield, has directed his office to help coordinate the effort to welcome survivors of Hurricane Katrina. Loudon points out that the place he calls “Gumbo Jail” falls in multiple jurisdictions of the City of Chesterfield, St. Louis County and the state.

“We have been fielding calls on this, and while there are lots of people willing to help, our office is uniquely positioned to coordinate state and local efforts,” Loudon said. “I want to lend an open invitation to everyone who has been affected by Hurricane Katrina. St. Louis County and Chesterfield have a lot to offer. The folks in Chesterfield Valley who endured the flood of ’93 are particularly attuned to the needs of Katrina survivors. To all those who have been affected by this disaster, we say ‘Welcome.’”

St. Louis County Executive Charlie Dooley and St. Louis County Government have opened the Regional Assistance Center in Chesterfield to hurricane victims, and the Salvation Army is working to establish programs to help former Gulf Coast residents get back on their feet. Loudon and other volunteers are seeking to complement those efforts by offering to set up financial counseling programs, a Web site for hurricane victims, and assistance in drafting resumes and finding jobs. Volunteers are also working to establish a direct-mail campaign to involve local businesses in efforts to get these families established in the area.

“Thanks to the efforts of Charlie Dooley and St. Louis County Government and thanks to the people at the Salvation Army, we can do our best to get these hurricane survivors back on their feet,” Loudon said. “They have proven they can make it through tough times. I want to help them return to a normal life. We should expect that some will want to make this beautiful area their new home. We should be prepared to help people integrate into our social fabric.”

Loudon credited the high-caliber Rockwood School District as an asset that will attract evacuees to the area. He is also working to establish a transportation program to introduce newcomers to the St. Louis area. Tour groups would visit the Arch, the St. Louis Zoo, the St. Louis Science Center, and other area attractions.

“St. Louis and New Orleans share a common bond as Mississippi River towns, and we should be there for those in trouble,” Loudon said. “To all those in need of help, I can assure you: St. Louis welcomes survivors.”

For more information on this effort, call Mike Reid in Sen. Loudon’s district office at (314) 895-0007.

-END-