

Rod's Radio Show Notes January 4th 2012

Michael Altshuler's famous quote always seems appropriate at this time of year; *"The bad news is that time flies. The good news is you're the pilot"*.

Go to: www.rodnolespropertymanagement.com and click on radio notes and sign up to have them emailed each week. If you know of someone looking for rental space, apartments, homes, retail, office or industrial send them to www.rodnolespropertymanagement.com.

You can participate in the show by calling 318-442-8255 (talk) between 8:05 and 8:55 on Wednesday morning. Do not attempt to call Saturday this is our encore performance (fancy way to say taped).

Attachments, Announcements, and Travels:

Courtland Place study of sales since 1-1-08

Mill Pond study of sales since 1-108

Largest real estate deals of 2011

Largest home sales of 2011

Press release for Veteran Job Fair

Announcement Public meeting regard selling water to Texas from Toledo Bend Cypress Bend resorts January 12th at 6pm

People not properties:

On sad note David Stock 56 passed away this week, David and Glenda are owners of 5 McDonald restaurants and active community leaders. Our prayers are with Glenda and her family.

Deborah Randolph President of Central La. Chamber of Commerce will be guest this morning.

Maurice and Ron Hebert are opening their own real estate firm and will be headquartered in Century Tel building as er-development property that Maurice sold to Gerome Karam last month.

Every Deal has a tale / tail:

Four homes sold last year for a million dollars or more and two of those sales were last week.

Jeremy D & Veronica W Duncan (5010 Plantation Road, Alex., LA 71303) to Paul S Arnold, Jr. & Laura W Arnold (5758 Bayou Rapides Road, Alex., LA 71303) - 8.136 acres in Sec 83, T4NR1W, \$1,250,000.00

Robert E & Pamela E Schroeder (5601 Courtland Place, Alex., LA 71301) to Jeremy D & Veronica W Duncan (5758 Bayou Rapides Road, Alex., LA 71303) - 15.028 acres in Sec 23, T4NR1W (5010 Plantation Road, Alex., LA 71303), \$1,400,000.00

Diane C & Craig W Hamilton to Hallie N & Christian J Wold - 2.856 acres in Sec 43, T3NR1W, et al, \$1,250,000.00

Benjamin T & Melanie M Drury (2600 Horseshoe Dr., Alex., LA 71301) to William D & Elizabeth P Long (5601 Courtland Place, Alex., LA 71301) - 2.595 acres in Sec 23, T3NR1W, et al (2600 Horseshoe Dr., Alex., LA 71301), \$1,000,000.00

Attachment: the list top 10 highest priced homes that sold last year in the range of \$1,400,000 down to \$630,000.

If you were waiting for lower interest rates to buy \$1,000,000 home then all you need for deal like this is \$200,000 down finance \$800,000 at 4.5% for 30 years and your payments are only \$4,053.48.

2400 Horseshoe Drive Evergreen Plantation is now on the market will be first home sale to top \$2,000,000

Alex Lodging Investment, LLC (1430 IH 35 South, Waco, TX 76706) to Jupiter Lodging Partners, LLC (5650 Frontage Road, Monroe, LA 71202) - Lot 2 & part of Lots 1 & 25, Blk K-1, Woodlawn Subd., et al (2001 N Bolton Ave., Alex., LA 71303), \$2,100,000.00. Comfort Inn on North Bolton (Reminder that Hampton Inn sold last month for \$9,000,000)

Field V Gremillion, III, et al (1003 Candy Lane, Alex., LA 71303) to Arbor Hill Senior Apartments, LLC (474 Wando Park Blvd., Suite 102, Mount Pleasant, SC 29464) - Lot 1 Arbor Hills Subd., \$175,000.00. Pineville acreage on Shamrock next door to Mr. Hoyt at North Carolina Company plans to develop 68 unit senior housing multi-family housing, my sale Jamie Lemoine's listing. Deal took one year to complete city of Pineville was great to work with

The Lake District, LLC (4700 Wilton Place, Alex., LA 71303) to North Ridge Development Co., LLC (4333 Shreveport Hwy., Pineville, LA 71360) - Lot 1, Lake District, Phase III, \$490,050.00. Site for new assisted living development by local Pineville headquarter senior housing developer. First sale to the west of Versailles. My sale and listing we call that a double bubble.

Top Five largest commercial sales for 2011:

Consist of two hotels, bank building, retail property next to Wal-Mart, and a church. Two of the sales were on 28 West and ,all five sales were on Alexandria side of the river. Top five sales ranged in price from high of \$9,000,000 to \$1,500,000

Alexandria Inn, LLC, et al to MIC Aex, LLC (202 W Superior St., Suite 321, Duluth, MN 55802) - Parcel J of Calhoun Commercial Park I, \$9,000,000.00

Robert B Tudor, Jr., LLC, et al (1412 Centre Court Dr., Suite 500, Alex., LA 71301) to Red River Bank (1412 Centre Court, Alex., LA 71301) - 2.885acres in Sec 43, T4NR1W, \$6,200,000.00

CenturyTel Service Group, LLC to Plaza 28, LLC (308 W Parkwood, Suite 104A, Friendswood, TX 77546) - 14.96 acres in Sec 26, 27, & 85, T4NR1W, \$2,950,000.00

Alex Lodging Investment, LLC (1430 IH 35 South, Waco, TX 76706) to Jupiter Lodging Partners, LLC (5650 Frontage Road, Monroe, LA 71202) - Lot 2 & part of Lots 1 & 25, Blk K-1, Woodlawn Subd., et al (2001 N Bolton Ave., Alex., LA 71303), \$2,100,000.00

A Few Dozen Enterprises, LLC (5778 Hwy. 544, Simsboro, LA 71275) to One Life Church, Inc. (P O Box 14507, Alex., LA) - 2.851 acres in Sec 76 & 77, T4NR2W, \$1,500,000.00

Rod's economic indicator perfect score is 5. When top rating of 5 appears week after week I will share with our audience, that "Green Shots" is here and recovery is in full swing. Only the measurement of lot sale ranked positive score and random sales one scored positive the other negative.

Legal recorder data for five business days from December 27, 28, 29 (closed Monday 26th and Friday 30th)

- (1) Total of 40 closed deals for the week has positive score
- (2) At least one new home sale for the week has positive score
- (3) At least one subdivision lot sale for the week garners positive score
- (4) Number of lender sales in market place is less than 5% of the total market sales for the week.
- (5) Two random residential sales compared to average prices for 2008, 2009 and 2010 that demonstrate increase prices.

(+1) Total sales looking for 40 closed deals from previous week market provided volume of \$8,099,876 and although we only saw 28 sales with this high

of volume with only three days REI scores a positive.

(.50) Random sales comparison: We track average sales price in certain subdivision for 2008 through 2010 and compare it to a sale this.

William D & Elizabeth P Long (2600 Horseshoe Dr., Alex., LA 71301) to Robert E & Pamela E Schroeder (5010 Plantation Road, Alex., LA 71303) - Lot 16, Courtland Place (5601 Courtland Place, Alex., LA 71301), \$490,000.00. Six sales since June 2008 average price is \$408,000 sale we are tracking is \$490,000

Tammy L Burnaman, et al (17011 Jennifer Dr., Livingston, LA 70754) to Michael W & Kaitlin R Hanks (12781 Mill Pond Road, Deville, LA 71328) - Lot 6, Mill Pond Subd., \$154,000.00. This sale of \$154,000 is lower than any one year average for past three years, hence negative score

(+1) New Home sales: Looking for a single sale this week for positive score the market gave us two

V & V Builders, LLC (P O Box 12846, Alex., LA 71315) to Josephine S Turner (P O Box 14387, Alex., LA 71315) - Lot 208, Bocage Subd., Phase V (5835 West Austin Dr., Alex., LA 71303), \$212,000.00

Three B Construction, LLC (P O Box 2167, Prairieville, LA 70769) to Robert L Ward (1101 16th St., Apt. 105, Alex., LA 71301) - Lot 55, Shadow Creek Ranch, Part I (337 Shadow Creek Ave., Pineville, LA 71360), \$166,900.00

(+1) Lot Sales or home site acreage: Only need one sale for positive score and this week the market gave us four and two from developer's inventory.

Brent P & Marjorie Bernard (100 Moreno Road, Glenmora, LA 71433) to Anthony B & Regina L Wright (90 Moreno Road, Glenmora, LA 71433) - 6 acres in Sec 5, T2SR2W, \$17,000.00

Ryan J Marcelle, Jr. & Jennifer A Marcelle (950 Hwy. 3170, Alex., LA 71302) to Michael Murphy, Sr. & Shanna L Murphy (489 Pecan Dr., Marksville, LA 71351) - 10 acres in Sec 65, T2NR1E, \$67,000.00

B & B Office Holdings, LLC (P O Box 2167, Prairieville, LA 70769) to Samson Construction, LLC, et al (37177 Heritage Court, Geismar, LA 70734) - Tract in Sec 8, T4NR1E (320 Shadow Creek Ave., Pineville, LA 71360), \$36,000.00

MRL, LLC (P O Box 3401, Pineville, LA 71360) to Louisiana Resource Management, Inc. (P O Box 11650, Alex., LA 71315) - 5 acres in Sec 2, T3NR2W (2419-B McKcithen Dr., Alex., LA 71303), \$59,307.51

(+1) Lender Total Sales rates positive score if lender sales are below 5% of total sales, this week market gave us zero appears market was in Christmas spirit.

Interest Rates: 30 year fixed is 3.94% was 3.98% the 15 year rate is 3.28% was 3.29%. 5/1 ARM is 2.88% was 2.87%.

Courtland place December 2011

Six sales since 6-5-2008 average price of \$408,000

06/05/2008	1815/258 1371822	Kevin B & Theresa N Simpson (5721 Courtland Place, Alex., LA 71301) to Jason R & Amanda T Ingalls (6428 Tennyson Oaks, Alex., LA 71301) - Lot 32, Tennyson Oaks Subd. (6428 Tennyson Oaks Lane, Alex., LA 71301), \$365,000.00
06/15/2009	1840/635 1400137	Randy J Lamartiniere (351 Jackson St., Apt. 4-C, Mandeville, LA 70448) to Bruce & Martha J Herrington (7500 Kirby Dr., Apt. 233, Houston, TX 77030) - Lot 2, Courtland Place, Phase III (5504 Courtland Place, Alex., LA 71301), \$358,000.00
09/01/2009	1846/79 1406002	Diane C Hamilton (2320 Horseshoe Dr., Alex., LA 71301) to Todd A & Stacey P Urbina (5701 Courtland Place, Alex., LA 71301) - Lot 12, Courtland Place Subd., \$530,000.00
10/09/2009	1848/654 1408607	Todd A & Stacey P Urbina (5701 Courtland Place, Alex., LA 71301) to Jeffrey T Barbe (5233 Lark Lane, Alex., LA 71303) - Lot 8, Blk 3, Clermont Estates, \$290,000.00
07/26/2010	1867/907 1429794	Daniel T & Dilek S Mendicino (8737 Double Eagle Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89117) to Jian Hang, et al (5709 Courtland Place, Alex., LA 71301) - Lot 8, Courtland Place (5709 Courtland Place, Alex., LA 71301), \$415,000.00
12/29/2011	1903/650 1465833	William D & Elizabeth P Long (2600 Horseshoe Dr., Alex., LA 71301) to Robert E & Pamela E Schroeder (5010 Plantation Road, Alex., LA 71303) - Lot 16, Courtland Place (5601 Courtland Place, Alex., LA 71301),

\$490,000.00

Mill Pond study January 2011

Average sales price for 2008 was \$209,375 with 4 sales.

Average sales price for 2009 was \$176,000 with 1 sale.

Average sales price for 2010 was \$168,000 with 1 sale

Average sales price for 2011 was \$160,700 with 2 sales

Average sales price for 8 sales in past three years is \$187,875

04/23/2008	1811/89	1367555	Darrell W & Bonnie A Tarver (322 Woodson Landing Road, Deville, LA 71328) to Lucas G & Michelle C Bryant (12837 Mill Pond Road, Deville, LA 71328) - Part of Lot 3, Mill Pond Subd., \$145,000.00
06/02/2008	1814/913	1371501	Christine E Carrick (8335 Freedom Crossing Trail, Apt. 402, Jacksonville, FL 32256) to Jason W & Alecia C Wiley (12841 Mill Pond Road, Deville, LA 71328) - Lot 3 & part of 2, Mill Pond Subd., \$172,500.00
09/29/2008	1823/552	1381086	Lyndall S & Patricia T Blackmon (2690 Donahue Ferry Rd., Pineville, LA 71360) to Robert J & Denise A Dailey (12680 Lilly Ln., Deville, LA 71328) - Lot 41, Mill Pond Subd., \$285,000.00
12/02/2008	1827/821	1385488	Bobby J & Beckie D Canerday (P O Box 181, Calvin, LA 71410) to Jeffrey A & Sandra S Smith (12785 Lilly Ln., Deville, LA 71328) - Lot 31, Mill Pond Subd., \$235,000.00
02/17/2009	1831/990	1390420	Christopher D Gatlin, Sr., et ux (730 Terra Ave., Alex., LA 71303) to David M & Nannette M Brouillette (12772 Mill Pond Dr., Deville, LA 71328) - Lot 18, Mill Pond Subd., \$176,000.00
05/20/2010	1862/12	1423265	Jason W & Alecia N Wiley (117 Cowan Rd., Clayton, LA 71326) to Edward C & Deborah L Crawford (12841 Mill Pond Rd., Deville, LA 71328) - Lots 3 & 2, Mill Pond Subd. (12841 Mill Pond Rd., Deville, LA 71328), \$168,000.00

10/17/2011 1899/273 1461248 Edward C & Deborah L Crawford (8193 Martinsville Road, Wesson, MS 39191) to Joseph E & Kala D Woodruff (12841 Mill Pond Road, Deville, LA 71328) - Lot 3, Mill Pond Subd., et al, \$167,500.00

12/29/2011 1903/532 1465781 Tammy L Burnaman, et al (17011 Jennifer Dr., Livingston, LA 70754) to Michael W & Kaitlin R Hanks (12781 Mill Pond Road, Deville, LA 71328) - Lot 6, Mill Pond Subd., \$154,000.00

Largest Deals of 2011 Radio Show

Deals Larger than \$700,000 and smaller sales of interest, Noles-Frye handled ones in red.

1Q11

The Lake District, LLC (4615 Parliament St., Suite 100, Alex., LA 71303) to Magnolia Trace Apartment Homes, LLC (330 Marshall St., Suite 200, Shreveport, LA 71101) - Lot Q of The Lake District II, 4th filing, \$718,740.00

Robert B Tudor, Jr., LLC, et al (1412 Centre Court Dr., Suite 500, Alex., LA 71301) to Red River Bank (1412 Centre Court, Alex., LA 71301) - 2.885 acres in Sec 43, T4NR1W, \$6,200,000.00

Memorial Drive Partnership II (4615 Parliament Dr., Suite 101, Alex., LA 71303) to Jun C & Ming X Zhang (109 Lakeland Dr., Pineville, LA 71360) - 1.703 acres on Memorial Dr., Alex., LA (2212, 2214, 2216 Memorial Dr., Alex., LA 71301), \$1,033,000.00

Parks Wood Products, Inc., et al (108 Hilton Court, Pineville, LA 71360) to RDK Properties, LLC (1423 Lee St., Alex., LA 71301) - 7.73 acres in Sec 21, T4NR1W, \$535,000.00

Wilbert R & Ada F Bryant (1615 Fulton Dr., Alex., LA 71301) to David R & Jenifer S Gilchrist (6220 Tennyson Oaks Ln., Alex., LA 71301) - 248.3 acre tract in Sec. 6, T1NR1E, \$745,200.00

2Q11

The Centre Partnership, et al (1412 Centre Court, Suite 500, Alex., LA 71301) to D'Argent Properties, LLC (125 Earl Linzay Road, Forest Hill, LA 71430) - .997 acres in Sec 43, T4NR1W, \$750,000.00

Donald P & Sharon D Jones (850 Paradise Rd., Ball, LA 71405) to Kevin R Williams Enterprises, Inc. (171 Alma Dr., Pollock, LA 71467) - Tract in Sec. 25, T5NR1E, \$500,000.00

Pugh Barrios Holdings, LLC (4615 Parliament Dr., Alex., LA 71303) to Hamoody, LLC (6944 Hunters Way, Denham Springs, LA 70726) - Lot 80B, Metro-Plex Subd. (1730 Metro Dr., Alex., LA 71301), \$1,200,000.00

DG Boyce, LLC (2603-A Oak Grove Road, Hattiesburg, MS 39402) to The Istrin Family Trust (99 Pacific Ave., Boyce, LA 71409) - 1.031 acres in Sec 4, T5NR3W (99 Pacific Ave., Boyce, LA 71409), \$918,618.00

Mid-State Investments to Aiken Developments, LLC - 4.53 acres in Sec 42 & 64, T4NR1W, \$1,296,437.08

Louisiana Hardwood Forestlands, LLC, et al (1512 East Franklin St., Suite 104, Chapel Hill, NC 27514) to Travis A & Kathy B Broadway (41 Guy Peart Road, Alex., LA 71302) - Tract in Sec 5, T1NR2E, et al, \$1,290,600.00

Sabine State Bank (P O Box 670, Many, LA 71449) to Kirzner Investments, LLC (1406 Lake Dr., Woodworth, LA 71485) - .6887 acres in Sec 32, T4NR1W (1133 MacArthur Dr., Alex., LA 71301), \$507,000.00

Crown Pine Realty 4, Inc. to The 584, LLC (1070 Rob Mac Road, Ville Platte, LA 70586) - Tract in Sec 5, T2SR3W, et al, \$1,092,800.00

3Q11

John W & Donna J Decker (7834 Loa Place, Diamondhead, MS 39525) to Vaughn Real Estate Holdings, LLC (1102 NW Main St., Bunkie, LA 71322) - 2.568 acres in Sec 43, T4NR1W, \$778,000.00

301 Jackson Place Partners to 201 Jackson Place, LLC (301 Jackson St., Suite 100, Alex., LA 71301) - Part of Lots 1 & 4, Sq 18, City of Alex., et al, \$750,000.00

Ritchie Properties, LLC (1268 Dorchester Dr., Alex., LA 71303) to JEC Real Estate Investments, LLC (3003 Old Forge Dr. Suite B, Baton Rouge, LA 70808) - Lot 1, Ritchie Center, \$555,443.00

John A Davis, III (2280 Choto Road, Knoxville, TN 37922) to Joseph C & Sandra G Hopewell (5514 Greenhealth Lane, Katy, TX 77450) - 11 acres in Sec 87, 88, & 52, T4NR3W, et al, \$1,000,000.00

Centennial Communications Corp. to Central Louisiana Cellular, LLC (1170 Devon Park Dr., Suite 104, Wayne, PA 19087) - Lot 81, Metroplex Subd., Phase III, 2nd filing (2006 MacArthur Dr., Alex., LA 71301), \$1,300,000.00

4Q11

A Few Dozen Enterprises, LLC (5778 Hwy. 544, Simsboro, LA 71275) to One Life Church, Inc. (P O Box 14507, Alex., LA) - 2.851 acres in Sec 76 & 77, T4NR2W, \$1,500,000.00

Southern Heritage Bank (5211 Jackson St., Alex., LA 71303) to Rapides Fair Association, Inc. (300 Grady Britt Dr., Alex., LA 71302) - 12.9 acres in Sec 52, T2NR1E (8197 Hwy. 71 South, Alex., LA 71346), \$450,000.00

Alexandria Inn, LLC, et al to MIC Aex, LLC (202 W Superior St., Suite 321, Duluth, MN 55802) - Parcel J of Calhoun Commercial Park I, \$9,000,000.00

Crest Natural Resources, LLC (P O Box 6115, Alex., LA 71307) to USA - Multiple tracts in Sec 27 & 28, T6NR2E, Grant & Rapides Parish, et al, \$1,275,500.00

CenturyTel Service Group, LLC to Plaza 28, LLC (308 W Parkwood, Suite 104A, Friendswood, TX 77546) - 14.96 acres in Sec 26, 27, & 85, T4NR1W, \$2,950,000.00

The Lake District, LLC (4700 Wilton Place, Alex., LA 71303) to North Ridge Development Co., LLC (4333 Shreveport Hwy., Pineville, LA 71360) - Lot 1, Lake District, Phase III, \$490,050.00

Alex Lodging Investment, LLC (1430 IH 35 South, Waco, TX 76706) to Jupiter Lodging Partners, LLC (5650 Frontage Road, Monroe, LA 71202) - Lot 2 & part of Lots 1 & 25, Blk K-1, Woodlawn Subd., et al (2001 N Bolton Ave., Alex., LA 71303), \$2,100,000.00

Cullen Management, LLC (P O Box 428, Crowley, LA 70527) to Alexandria Wellness Center, Inc. d/b/a Compass Behavioral Center (426 North Ave. G, Crowley, LA 70526) - Lots 13 & 14, Walden Court Subd., \$1,113,292.31

Top 10 Home Sales of 2011

Robert E & Pamela E Schroeder (5601 Courtland Place, Alex., LA 71301) to Jeremy D & Veronica W Duncan (5758 Bayou Rapides Road, Alex., LA 71303) - 15.028 acres in Sec 23, T4NR1W (5010 Plantation Road, Alex., LA 71303), \$1,400,000.00

Jeremy D & Veronica W Duncan (5010 Plantation Road, Alex., LA 71303) to Paul S Arnold, Jr. & Laura W Arnold (5758 Bayou Rapides Road, Alex., LA 71303) - 8.136 acres in Sec 83, T4NR1W, \$1,250,000.00

Diane C & Craig W Hamilton to Hallie N & Christian J Wold - 2.856 acres in Sec 43, T3NR1W, et al, \$1,250,000.00

Benjamin T & Melanie M Drury (2600 Horseshoe Dr., Alex., LA 71301) to William D & Elizabeth P Long (5601 Courtland Place, Alex., LA 71301) - 2.595 acres in Sec 23, T3NR1W, et al (2600 Horseshoe Dr., Alex., LA 71301), \$1,000,000.00

David S & Janet C Walker (P O Box 13729, Alex., LA 71315) to Benjamin T & Melanie M Drury (6307 Landmark Dr., Alex., LA 71301) - Part of Lot 46, Landmark Subd., \$962,000.00

David R Gilchrist (1500 Hwy. 456, Lecompte, LA 71346) to Darren J & Maria J Olagues (6321 Audubon Oaks Dr., Alex., LA 71303) - Lots 19 & 20, Timber Trails Subd., Unit 7, et al (6220 Tennyson Oaks Lane, Alex., LA 71301), \$800,000.00

Eugene A Ledet, Jr. 7 Beverly E Ledet (5495 Stonegate Dr., Alex., LA 71303) to Michael D & Evelyn B Allen (5050 Laura Lane, Woodworth, LA 71485) - 1.237 acres in Sec 29, T3NR1W (1004 Hidden Ridge Dr., Woodworth, LA 71485), \$755,000.00

Jeremy A Smith & Nicola S Corbett (2147 Boyce St., Alex., LA 71301) to Celena B Lewis (P O Box 12203, Alex., LA 71315) - Part of Lot 46, Lake District, Phase I (4825 Porter Circle, Alex., LA 71303), \$670,000.00

Gregory M & Elizabeth S Cooperrider (General Delivery, Roseburg, OR 97470) to James R Beatty, IV & Tracey C Beatty (5445 Provine Place, Apt. 1316, Alex., LA 71303) - Lot 23, The Left Bank Subd. (3816 Rue Left Bank, Alex., LA 71303), \$650,000.00

Debbie Schellenger, executrix of the Succn of Eula B Lewis to Gerald J Leglue, Jr. (6219 Landmark Dr. Alex., LA 71301) - Lots 2 & 3, Wycliffe Addn. (620 Wycliffe Way, Alex., LA 71303), \$630,000.00

“The Chamber Means Business”



Date: December 20, 2011
Contact: Deborah Randolph, Chairman of the Board
Re: Chamber to Host Hiring Our Heroes Job

The United States Chamber of Commerce is partnering with the Central Louisiana Chamber of Commerce to host a Hiring Our Heroes Job Fair on January 26, 2012 at the England Airpark Army Processing Facility, located at 1804 Oliver Drive in Alexandria, LA.

“The Alexandria Hiring Our Heroes Job Fair will include national, regional, state and local employers with open positions,” said Deborah Randolph, President of the Central Louisiana Chamber of Commerce. “There will also be workshops aimed at providing veterans and spouses with coaching and tools needed to help them secure good jobs.”

Additionally, on-site coaching and connectivity will be provided to a host of resources for what “Vetpreneurs”—those veterans interested in starting their own small businesses.

Lending assistance to the Central Louisiana Chamber for this project are: DOL VETS, Fort Polk, Louisiana National Guard, the ESGR, Rapides Parish VET Center, Louisiana’s Veteran’s Affairs Medical Centers, Louisiana Department of Labor, Louisiana Workforce Commission, Central Louisiana Economic Development Alliance (CLEDA), Business Acceleration System (BAS) and the England Industrial Airpark and Community and Operation Homefront Louisiana.

The U.S. Chamber launched the Hiring our Heroes program in March 2011 as a year-long nationwide effort to help veterans and their spouses find meaningful employment. The U.S. Chamber developed the program in

partnership with the Department of Labor Veterans Employment and Training Service (DOL VETS), to improve public-private sector coordination in local communities, where veterans and their families are returning from military service every day.

Since the launch of the program in March 2011, the U.S. Chamber and local Chamber partners have hosted 66 hiring fairs in 37 states and have 34 more scheduled, including Louisiana's before the end of March 2012. Thus far, the Chamber hiring fairs have hosted more than 55,000 veterans and military spouses and given them the opportunity to meet with over 2,500 different employers. As a result, the Hiring Our Heroes program has helped more than 3,400 veterans and military spouses and 50 wounded warriors find employment so far. But statistics reveal that there is more work to do. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that while the national unemployment rate remains at 9 percent, the unemployment rate for Iraq and Afghanistan era veterans who left active duty since 2001 was 12.1 percent in October, up from 11.7 percent in September.

This led Congress to pass a bill to encourage the hiring of veterans. On November 21, President Obama signed into law the "VOW to Hire Heroes Act" that will provide tax credits of up to \$2,400 for employers who hire veterans who have been unemployed at least 4 weeks; up to \$5,600 for hiring veterans who have been unemployed longer than 6 months; and up to \$9,600 for businesses that hire veterans who have service-connected disabilities and have been unemployed longer than 6 months.

Today, more than ever, companies want and need to hire the right employee with the "right" stuff. Military veterans and their spouses comprise a pool of skilled talent that can benefit any company or organization in today's market.

The U.S. Chamber and its local partners are committed to making this one-of-a-kind FREE hiring fair a win-win for employers and veteran/military spouse job seekers.

Employers are encouraged to visit www.hiringourheroes@uschamber.com and scroll down to Alexandria, LA to register free to secure a booth at the Hiring Our Heroes Job Fair. Job seekers are encouraged to visit the site to pre-register to attend.