

## **SEPTEMBER 21, 2018**

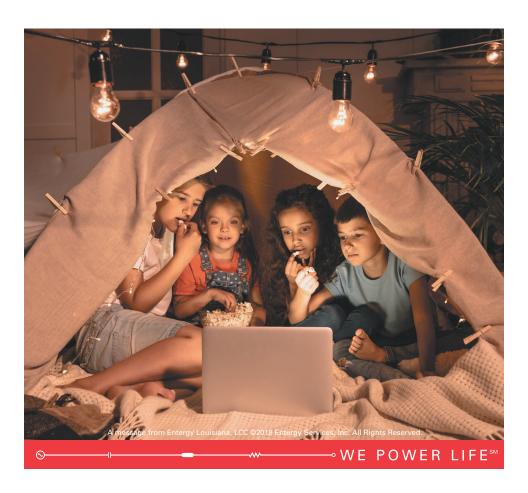
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#### **SEPTEMBER 21, 2018**

#### **Emcee**

Dr. Kim Hunter Reed Louisiana Commissioner of Higher Education

#### Welcome

Dr. Joseph Savoie President, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

#### Invocation

The Very Reverend Chester Arceneaux Rector, Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist

#### **Dinner Served**

**Program Begins** 

#### Special Remarks by

Senator John Breaux
Senator Mary Landrieu
Secretary Shawn Wilson
Jolan Jolivette
Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser
Phillip May
Governor John Bel Edwards

Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco

## KATHLEEN BABINEAUX BLANCO

Kathleen Babineaux Blanco, the only woman to serve as governor of Louisiana, held four different offices and never lost an election during her 24 trailblazing years in public service. She was the first woman elected to represent Lafayette Parish in the Louisiana House of Representatives, first woman elected to the Public Service Commission, which she served as chairwoman, and she was elected lieutenant governor for two terms.



In 2005, during her term as governor, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita devastated

coastal Louisiana. Despite resistance, she secured more than \$29 billion in federal assistance for Louisiana's recovery efforts. The investment strengthened levees, rebuilt public infrastructure and awarded grants to more than 128,000 families to rebuild their homes.

In addition, Governor Blanco directed the single-largest increase in education funding in Louisiana history. She expanded the state's pre-kindergarten program and fully funded colleges and universities for the first time in a quarter century.

The state earned national recognition for the economic development initiatives Governor Blanco directed during her tenure. She retired from office having built a solid foundation for continued storm recovery efforts, leaving nearly \$2 billion in surplus funds.

A native of Iberia Parish, Governor Blanco earned a bachelor's degree in business education from the University of Southwestern Louisiana, now the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. She is married to Raymond Blanco, a retired UL Lafayette vice president and former football coach. They are the parents of six children: Karmen, Monique, Nicole, Raymond Jr., Pilar and Benedict (1977-1997). The Blancos also have 13 grandchildren. Since leaving office, Governor Blanco speaks nationally and internationally, does consulting and is writing her memoirs. Kathleen and Raymond Blanco celebrated their 54th wedding anniversary on Aug. 8, 2018.



## Kathleen Babineaux Blanco Public Policy Center

The Kathleen Babineaux Blanco Public Policy Center brings together researchers from diverse fields to pursue pragmatic solutions for Louisiana's pressing public policy needs.

#### BE PART OF LOUISIANA HISTORY

## Focusing on the Future by Providing Policy Research and Archival Preservation

Inspired by the leadership of Governor Blanco, the policy center will address issues she championed throughout her 24-year career in public service. Through in-depth research and thoughtful analysis, the center will offer solutions that improve the quality of life for the state's citizens. The Blanco Center aims to provide policymakers and the public with the information necessary to improve communities across Louisiana. A special interest of the center will be the role of women in politics, and providing ethics training for community leaders and elected officials.

The Blanco Center will be located inside UL Lafayette's Edith Garland Dupré Library. The center will house and provide research access to Governor Blanco's gubernatorial papers, which she donated to the University. The collection provides a unique vantage point from which to examine an extraordinary period in Louisiana's recent history.

## **POLICY CENTER**

With gratitude, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette recognizes the following Blanco Policy Center donors for their generosity in reaching over \$1 million in support to date.

Anonymous

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\*The following endowments will support the work of the Blanco Policy Center

Senator Edgar "Sonny" Mouton Board of Regents Support Fund Endowed Professorship

Elias "Bo" Ackal, Jr. Board of Regents Support Fund Endowed Professorship

The Senator Armand Brinkhaus Endowed Fund to Support Graduate Student Studies

Thank you to the Community Foundation of Acadiana for its partnership in support of the Blanco Policy Center.

DONORS

Your generosity opens the door to further research and innovation on Louisiana's most pressing public policy issues. Your support will create infinite opportunities for students, faculty, and the community to improve the quality of life for Louisiana citizens.

Gifts made to establish endowments, including named scholarships and professorships, provide direct support to UL Lafayette students and faculty by offsetting tuition and fees, and funding research. Gifts made toward the endowed chair provide support for program development and facility advancements.



Blanco Policy Center design provided by College of the Arts design team led by Associate Professor William Riehm, RA, NCIDQ.

## STEERING COMMITTEE

Thank you to the following members of the Blanco Policy Center Steering Committee for their generous efforts and support.

> Chris & Susie Arsement Jared & Camille Arsement Jerry & Karmen Blanco-Hartfield Nicole Blanco David & Monique Blanco Boulet Ty & Kim Bromell Jimmy & Sandra Clarke **Beth Courtney** George & Merilyn Crain Michael & Pilar Blanco Eble Randy & Daynese Haynie Henry & Kim Hunter Reed Mary Landrieu & Frank Snellings Joel & Mary Werner Ross & Beth LeBlanc Russell & Erin Mosely Michael & Ceci Neustrom Michael & Penelope Olivier Tyron & Elizabeth Picard Mark & Cindy Romero

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Ray & Aprill Blanco
Shawn & Rocki Wilson

Ira & Mary-Patricia Wray Richard & Elaine Zuschlag

## LEGACY GALA SPONSORS

Sponsors of the Legacy Gala help offset the overall cost of the celebration. Proceeds from the Legacy Gala will support the Blanco Policy Center.



## LOUISIANA SEAFOOD

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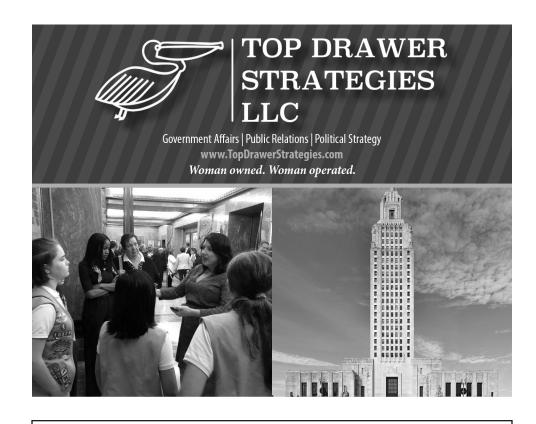
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## CONGRATULATIONS GOVERNOR BLANCO AND UL LAFAYETTE

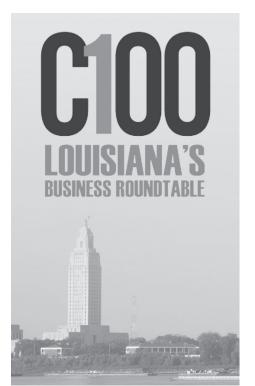
FROM LEONARD KLEINPETER





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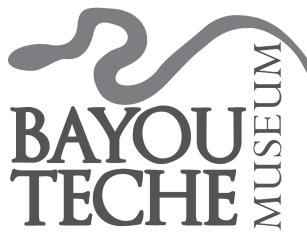
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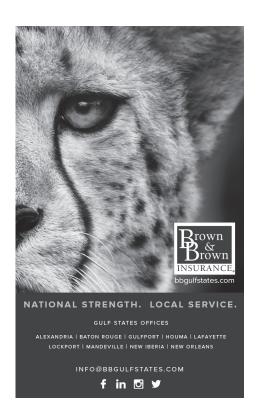
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is proud to join the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's College of Liberal Arts in honoring Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco.

Congratulations, Governor Blanco!

The great state of Louisiana thanks you for your 25 years of state government leadership!

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# Governor Blanco



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THANK YOU Governor Blanco and your family for your service and leadership

Norma Jane Sabiston President, Sabiston Consultants



## Kathleen Babineaux Blanco Public Policy Center

To learn more about the policy center's initiatives, visit blancocenter.louisiana.edu and/or contact (337) 482-0922.