

Long Awaited Boat Launch Finally A Reality

Gena Vitale
Staffwriter

"I woke up this morning and realized this dream had come true."

This was the sentiment of Police Juror Irving Comeaux of Ward 3 at the ribbon cutting ceremony held on Thursday, September 3rd for the Bayou L'Ourse E.C. "Bob" Thibodaux Memorial Boat Launch.

The dream started way back in 2002, and for the years to follow, this dream turned into more of a nightmare.

"We hit one brick wall after another," says Comeaux.

The funding came from Federal grants and through the Recreational funds of the District.

Erin Watson, Assumption Parish grant writer, says that by the time the grant money was received all the rules had changed and it was back to square one.

"There was so much red tape with the Corp of Engineers and the State. It was just one thing after another," says Comeaux.

Well, thirteen long years have past and the day finally arrived.



Elected officials and family members of E.C. "Bob" Thibodaux cut the ribbon to officially open the E.C. "Bob" Thibodaux Memorial Boat Launch. The launch is located at 1668 Hwy. 662 and will be open 24 hours a day.

The boat launch, which has ample parking space, is finally open for business.

Comeaux says this is very important to the people of Bayou L'Ourse because before this opened they had to drive to Amelia to launch a boat.

The E.C. "Bob" Thibodaux Memorial Boat Launch is located at 1668 Hwy. 662 and was a collaborative effort of the Assumption Parish Police Jury, the Bayou L'Ourse Recreational District and the family of "Bob" Thibodaux, who leased the land for a fee on \$1.00

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E.C. "Bob" Thibodaux daughter Helen Skolfield (holding ribbon) and Thibodaux's granddaughters Kay Skolfield, Julie Skolfield Bleicher and Stacy Skolfield Lee were in attendance for the ribbon cutting ceremony to officially open the E.C. "Bob" Thibodaux Memorial Boat Launch

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per year for 99 years in memory of "Bob."

Comeaux said jokingly, "We had the 99 year lease, but I was afraid it was going to expire before we got the boat launch."

"If it wouldn't have been for the Thibodaux family, this would not have happened," Comeaux added.

Police Jury President Marty Triche commended Comeaux and said it was a project he has been wanting for a long time and it is a testament of his hard work. He also thanked the Thibodaux family for their contribution.

Members of the Thibodaux family attended the ceremony and included daughter, Helen Skolfield and granddaughters, Kay Skolfield, Julie Skolfield Bleicher and Stacy Skolfield Lee.

Kay Skolfield says her

grandfather loved this area and the people that lived here.

"I hope he is here looking down on us today," said Kay. "I am sure he would be thrilled."

She also said he came from a humble beginning and would be thrilled by this honor.

The launch is on the Bayou Bouef Canal, which ties into Lake Palourde, Lake Verret and Grassy Lake; and also leads into the Intercoastal Canal and the Gulf of Mexico.

Father Joseph Chacko of Saint Andrew Church in Amelia was on hand to bless the launch.

It will be open 24 hours a day and lighting and security cameras will be in place soon.

Comeaux concluded by saying, "A bad start is a good ending and this is a great ending."