

# NEWS RELEASE

## **Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards to Speak at Monroe Chamber of Commerce 95th Annual Meeting and Banquet**

MONROE-The 95th Annual Monroe Chamber of Commerce Meeting and Banquet is scheduled for Thursday, February 4th at the Monroe Civic Center. The Honorable John Bel Edwards, 56<sup>th</sup> Governor of Louisiana will give the keynote address. Edwards, a democrat, was elected Governor of Louisiana in November with 56% of the vote.

Edwards was born and raised in Amite, Louisiana the son of Tangipahoa Sheriff Frank M. Edwards, Jr. and his wife Dora. He graduated as valedictorian from Amite High School in 1984 and received his bachelor's degree in engineering from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1988. Following graduation, Edwards served in the Army for eight years, primarily in the [25th Infantry Division](#) and [82nd Airborne Division](#), including command of a company in the 82nd's 3rd Battalion, [505th Parachute Infantry Regiment](#). Following his tenure in the Army, Edwards earned a law degree from [Louisiana State University](#). After graduation, he opened Edwards & Associates Law Firm in Amite.

In 2008, he was elected to the District 72 seat in the Louisiana House of Representatives. He was reelected to that position again in 2011. While in the House, he chaired the Veterans Affairs Committee and also served as chairman of the Louisiana House Democratic Caucus.

Edwards and his wife, Donna Hutto Edwards, have two daughters (Sarah Edwards and Samantha Edwards) and one son (John Miller Edwards). He and his family are active in the [Saint Helena Roman Catholic Church](#) in Amite. In 2014, Edwards and other members of his Tangipahoa Parish political family were inducted as a group into the [Louisiana Political Museum and Hall of Fame](#) in [Winnfield](#).

The 2015 recipients of the Rabin-Silverstein Award and the Kitty DeGree Foundation Lifetime Business Achievement Award will be announced prior to Edward's keynote address. In addition,

the 2015 Chamber Chairman John Landry an Attorney with McNew, King, Mills, Burch and Landry, LLP and Incoming Chairman William Smart, Warehouse Shipping Manager for Brookshire's Grocery Company, will both give brief remarks.

Tickets for the event are \$40.00 per person for Monroe Chamber members if ordered before January 29th. Reservations are required for this sell out event. For tickets or more information, please call Ruthie Wheatley at 807-4004.

The sponsors for the event are ANGUS Chemical, Associated Business Printing, ATMOS Energy, CenturyLink, DeltaStyle Magazine, Entergy, Glenwood Regional Medical Center, Huffman and Soignier, The News-Star, Lagniappe Broadcasting, Ouachita Independent Bank, P & S Surgical Hospital, Patty Stewart Photography, Pecanland Mall, Progressive Bank, St. Francis Medical Center, The City of Monroe, The Radio People, and Vantage Health Plan.

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