

# Hometown Heroes

May 7, 2009

May 14, 2009

May 21, 2009



**Ricky Tenney**

LEE BALL

Ricky Tenney owns his own business in Lafayette, but works across south-west Louisiana. Several years ago, he got involved in Cub Scout Pack 333 at Highland Baptist Christian School when his son became involved in scouting. Then in 2007, when the Webelos of Pack 333 crossed over into Boy Scouts, he helped form Boy Scout Troop 333 and began inviting other Webelos and new scouts to join. In the first two years of its existence, the troop went from five or six boys to more than 25 active Boy Scouts.

Ricky is 49 years old and lives in New Iberia with his wife, Rachael and son Josh, age 12.

Today's Hometown Hero Presented By:

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**Robert Stutts**

LEE BALL

Robert Stutts has touched the lives of many children of the community in his 25 years as a baseball coach, even after volunteering for 19 years as a coach after his children were no longer involved in league play.

He has been a New Iberia Little League board of director for 21 years, a head umpire and coach for league All-Star teams for 12 years and led a team to a state runner-up championship. So strong is his commitment to the community one of the Major Boys Baseball Field at the Air Base Ball Park has been dedicated the Robert Stutts Field.

Robert, 55, and his wife, Hilda, have two children Ronnie and Nicholas.

Today's Hometown Hero Presented By:



LOUISIANA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**SIMONE B. CHAMPAGNE**  
State Representative ~ District 49

1407 Main Street  
Jeanerette, LA 70544

Phone (337) 276-4916  
Fax (337) 276-4918  
champags@legis.state.la.us



**Gilbert Doc Thomas**

LEE BALL

Gilbert "Doc" Thomas Jr. has enriched the lives of many individuals through his volunteer efforts over a 22-year span. His enthusiasm is contagious, with his entire family often joining in his endeavors.

He was a charter board member of the Boys and Girls Club of New Iberia, still holding an active seat. He has worked diligently to promote projects of St. Edwards Catholic Church, Bunk Johnson Jazz and Heritage Festival and Sugarland Optimist Club. He is an eight year board of trustees member of Columbia Dauterive Hospital and often serves as a youth motivational speaker for the Iberia Parish School Board.

Doc and his wife, Jessica, have three children, and one grandchild.

Today's Hometown Hero Presented By:

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# Hometown Heroes

May 28, 2009

June 4, 2009

June 11, 2009



**Chuck Ashley**

LEE BALL

Chuck Ashley is a humble individual who doesn't ask for much in life. The Centerville native and New Iberia resident has been a quadriplegic since a diving accident left him paralyzed 34 years ago at the age of 17, but that doesn't keep him from giving back to his community.

As a regular volunteer for the Iberia Parish Sheriff's Office, he has become well known for his optimism and positive attitude around the Iberia Parish Courthouse. Whatever the need, he gets the job done with a smile.

For Chuck, helping others through volunteer work is a way to return a favor for all the help and support he has received in his lifetime.

Today's Hometown Hero Presented By:



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**Derek Hebert**  
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**Claire Daly**

LEE BALL

Claire Daly's compulsion to help people in need has led her to a 27 year career in assisting at-risk families and the development of children.

As executive director for the Prosecutor's Early Intervention Program of the 16th Judicial District Attorney's Office Family Service Division for the last seven years, the New Iberia native oversees a department that services more than 2,000 children yearly in a three parish area targeting at-risk youth to provide intervention of future problems and a diversion from the judicial system.

Even with her busy schedule, she still manages to find time to write grant applications to benefit family programs.

Claire and her husband, David, have three children and two grandchildren.

Today's Hometown Hero Presented By:

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Beth Forrest Clarke, M.D.

Chris Gaffga, M.D.

Tynes Mixon, M.D.



**Josh Bourque**

LEE BALL

Josh Bourque, 22, has a profound commitment to his community. While employed as a firefighter and a part time dispatcher for Acadian Ambulance, the Iberia Parish native still manages to find time to offer his services as a volunteer firefighter for both the Coteau and Youngsville volunteer departments. To many in the Coteau area, he is known as "the guy in the little silver truck" who is always first on the scene to respond to an emergency.

His dedication and commitment to saving lives is no surprise to some area residents, knowing he grew up in a household with his father, John Bourque, serving as a volunteer firefighter for 33 years.

In addition to his regular work schedule, he devotes 10-50 hours a week as a volunteer firefighter.

Today's Hometown Hero Presented By:



Cargill Deicing Technology

Hwy 329 South  
Avery Island, LA 70513  
P.O. Box 706  
Avery Island, LA 70513  
Tel: 337-364-6104  
Fax: 337-373-1727

# Hometown Heroes

June 18, 2009

June 25, 2009

July 2, 2009



**Brady Labit**

LEE BALL

Brady Labit is well known around the New Iberia Senior High campus as an excellent teacher, tennis coach, friend and mentor to all students. A motorcycle accident in 1997 that left him wheelchair bound hasn't changed his positive attitude or kept him from volunteering his time to benefit both the youth and adults of the community.

With a strong belief that an organized sport can make a life changing difference in the lives of children, he's always ready to take on the challenge of coaching a tennis team of any size. He has also served as an adult tennis coach the last five years and is a member of the Wheelchair Tennis League.

He has one son, Dustin James and a fiancé, Victoria Schousboe.

Today's Hometown Hero Presented By:

**George Wright Insurance**



George Wright

**365-1475**

1101 Center Street  
New Iberia



**Jennifer Armentor**

LEE BALL

Jennifer Armentor's optimistic outlook on life is contagious. As a wife, working mother and owner of a hair salon and cosmetic studio, her days are usually hectic but she still remains focused on her life's desire to empower and positively influence women of all generations so they can flourish from their personal experiences to find their own avenue in life.

Jennifer never accepts praise for her good deeds, always giving the glory back to God. She has organized two successful women's wellness fundraisers for the Lydia Cancer Association, raising over \$25,000 and has served as the chairperson for the Highland Baptist Chili Cook-off.

Jennifer and her husband, Jake, have two young daughters, Emalie, 4, and Rylon, 1.

Today's Hometown Hero Presented By:



364-4738

520 N. Lewis Street, New Iberia



Robert E. Lahasky,  
M.D., F.A.A.F.P.



**Doug Louviere**

LEE BALL

Doug Louviere loves helping people and his neighbors are frequently the beneficiaries of his generosity. Whether it's repairing a car for a friend, helping a neighbor with household repairs, cutting a tree down or helping the elderly with yard work, he's always ready to offer a helping hand. As a business owner, husband and father, his days are busy but he continually manages to find time to make life a little easier for those around him.

Doug is well known around the Boas Avenue neighborhood as the "giving guy" who never expects anything in return. He looks upon work as his hobby and is happiest when he can help bring joy to a friend or neighbor.

Doug and his wife, Kara, have one son Tyler, 4.

Today's Hometown Hero Presented By:

**J. Phil Haney**  
16th Judicial District Attorney



Serving the parishes of Iberia, St. Mary and St. Martin

# Hometown Heroes

July 9, 2009

July 16, 2009

July 23, 2009



**Randy Foco**

LEE BALL

Randy Foco believes every minute he devotes to promoting hunting skills to the youth of the area is time well spent. The Jeanerette resident has touched the lives of many children over a 19-year span while serving as a volunteer hunter safety instructor for Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries, longtime coach of the Jeanerette Junior Hunter Education Club and board member and president of the Louisiana Hunter Education Instruction Association.

As head coach for the Louisiana Hunter Education Team, Randy has helped to lead the group to three national championships, always instilling in his team that competition is not always about winning but the enjoyment of the sport.

Randy and his wife, Princess, have three sons Rory, Ross and Brennan.

Today's Hometown Hero Presented By:



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**Larry G. Rader**

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337-367-3484



**Gwen Leblanc**

LEE BALL

When Gwen "Poopay" Leblanc's hometown community of Loreauville looks good, she feels good. As longtime president of the Loreauville Beautification Committee, she has proved a little effort and lots of community involvement can go a long ways in helping to keep a community looking its best.

With lawn and garden tools in hand, she usually can be found along the Main Street area of Loreauville doing her part to help spruce up her hometown. Gwen's enthusiasm is contagious with others joining in the cleanup projects, leading to two state Cleanest City titles and numerous district titles. She is also active in St. Joseph Catholic Church activities.

Gwen and her husband, Jimmy, have one daughter Fran and two grandchildren.

Today's Hometown Hero Presented By:

**Taylor Barras**

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

District 48



**Gloria Girouard**

LEE BALL

Gloria Girouard and United Way are synonymous in Iberia Parish. Living by her life's motto, "taking care of the past and protecting the future," the New Iberia resident always has the children and elderly of the community at heart.

In her 16 years of service with United Way, she has led the organization to a fundraising campaign of over \$550,000, was successful in implementing the First Day of Caring Program and is working diligently to fulfill a vision of United Way Community Solutions Committee to establish a women's shelter. She speaks proudly of her ranking as a Bayou Girl Scout member for 60 years and her affiliations with Louisiana Partners and New Iberia Kiwanis Club.

Gloria and her husband, Ron, have two children Scott and Susie.

Today's Hometown Hero Presented By:

**Van Eaton & Romero**

1101 E. Admiral Doyle Dr.  
337-365-9700  
www.vaneatonromero.com



Joanie Kraker

Jack Kraker

# Hometown Heroes

July 30, 2009

August 6, 2009



**Darrel Thibodeaux**

LEE BALL

Darrel Thibodeaux is always ready to speak out on behalf of any child with autism spectrum disorders. While maintaining a busy schedule as a state social service analyst, the Loreauville native finds time to reach out to autistic individuals and their families with support and encouragement, always working to create public awareness of the necessity of research for prevention and treatments. He is a board member of the Autism Society of Acadiana, facilitator of the local ASAC Chapter, a member of the Louisiana Citizens for Action Now and is a Partners in Policymaking graduate. He is founder and scoutmaster of BSA Troop 16 organized for boys on the autistic spectrum.

Darrel and his wife, Anne, have two sons Devin, 17 and Roger, 15.

Today's Hometown Hero Presented By:



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**Gilbert "Doc"  
Thomas, Jr.**

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**337-560-5595**



**Connie Landry, Jr.**

LEE BALL

Just ask Connie E. Landry Jr. what's the best way to promote a better community and he will tell you it is through volunteerism. In his nearly 20 years of volunteer service, the Delcambre native has proved community involvement can become contagious. He has been active in the Delcambre Youth Baseball Program for 15 years, a member of the Iberia Youth Baseball Board, an 18-year member of the Delcambre Shrimp Festival Association, a long-time member of the Delcambre Steering Committee, working for the future development of the Port of Delcambre and is a past president of the Lady of Lake Catholic Church Board.

Connie, an operations manager for Furgo/John Chance and his wife, Norma, have two sons Jad, 23 and Miles, 17.

Today's Hometown Hero Presented By:

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