<u>Alexander, Vitter Announce Funding for Morehouse Parish</u>

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Rodney Alexander and U.S. Sen. David Vitter announced today that the Morehouse General Hospital will receive USDA Rural Development funding totaling $7,874,000.

The funding will be used for renovations including emergency department and rural health clinic improvements, an MRI/CT build out, second floor air handling unit replacement, exterior and main entry improvements and additions, and equipment replacement.

"Securing such a significant amount of funding for the Morehouse General Hospital is a huge win for rural health care in the 5th District. The improvements that will be made will enable the people of Morehouse Parish to continue obtaining quality health care at the local level," Alexander said.

"The Morehouse Parish Hospital provides an invaluable service to the local community, and the doctors and nurses who serve so faithfully at the hospital require the very best equipment to provide their patients with the medical care they deserve," said Vitter. "It was imperative that the hospital was successful in securing this loan, and I worked closely with officials at the USDA to see that this happened. The award of this loan means that Morehouse Parish can continue its good work and quality of care for the local parish residents."

Cheryl Faulkenberry, Administrator/CEO of Morehouse General Hospital said, "This approval of the USDA is a huge step forward for Morehouse General Hospital. It will allow us to continue to provide much needed healthcare services to the people of Morehouse Parish and surrounding communities. The loan will also assist us in continuing to improve our financial situation and sustain long term viability. The Board, Administration, Medical Staff, and employees are truly grateful for all the hard work and support that so many people have had in the project, especially our congressional delegates."

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