



Louisiana Senate District 36

Capitol Report

Bossier, Webster, Bienville & Claiborne Parishes



Sen. Ryan Gatti: Politicians Should Listen to People

Family Values Champion

WHAT I BELIEVE
by Sen. Ryan Gatti

- Right to Life
- Pro-2nd Amendment
- Traditional Marriage
- Public Education
- Prayer in School
- Property Rights
- Against High Taxes
- Cutting Spending
- Pro-Free Enterprise
- Pro-Family Farms
- Pro-Teacher
- Pro-Firefighters, EMS
Police and Deputies
- Reducing Auto
Insurance Rates
- Respect our Rural
Values and Lifestyle



SEN. RYAN GATTI addresses the Louisiana State Senate.

After 50 Town Halls, Sen. Gatti Says It's No Secret Where District 36 Stands

MINDEN — Sen. Ryan Gatti has just completed his 50th town hall meeting in the past three years. He has held them in every part of the four parishes he represents in the Louisiana Senate — Bossier, Webster, Bienville, and Claiborne.

Sen. Gatti says politicians really should take the time to listen to the people they represent. They might vote differently, he said. "It's no secret where the people in Senate District 36 stand! We're conservative, God-fearing, honest, hard-working Americans. We love this country and our flag. We stand for the right to life, the 2nd Amendment, smaller government, low taxes, balanced budgets, and being tough on criminals."

Some elected officials spend their careers dodging questions from the media or even their own constituents, especially today when politics has gotten so mean and destructive. Perhaps that's why so few elected officials hold town hall meetings anymore. They are embarrassed to

See SEN. GATTI on Page 8

We Stand for Those Who Cannot Stand for Themselves

Why We Always Stand for the Flag

By Sen. Ryan Gatti
State Senator, District 36

BENTON — We stand because those who fought and died for our freedom cannot stand anymore. We honor them by standing as Christ stood at the passing of Stephen in Acts 7:56.

There is something special and

honorable about the heroism of a person who agrees ahead of time to give his life for you--it's unexplainable. The only correct response is standing. It's not enough, but it's the best tradition we have to show honor.

We place our hand on our heart to feel it beat. It reminds us that many stood and volunteered to give their last heartbeat and their only

precious life to protect and defend our freedom. We cover our heart to remind us that the enemies of America will not stop until they extinguish the collective heartbeat of America — patriotism. However different we are, our enemies see us as the same heartbeat.

We cover our heart with our right hand because it is the traditional

See SENATOR on Page 7

Louisiana Senate Election Oct. 12, 2019

Senate District 36 Bossier, Webster, Bienville and Claiborne Parishes

Sen. Ryan Gatti

Early Voting Begins Sept. 29-Oct. 5, 2019

Sen. Gatti Has Visited Every School in Dist. 36

This area must be left blank for mailing indicia and recipient's address



SEN. RYAN GATTI speaks to students from XXXX High School visiting the State Capitol. Since 2016, Sen. Gatti has visited all 37 public schools in Senate District 36.

Since His Own Days at Airline High, Sen. Gatti Has Had a Heart for Students, Education

BOSSIER CITY — In his three years as a State Senator, Ryan Gatti has taken the time to visit all 37 public schools in District 36 in Bossier, Webster, Bienville, and Claiborne parishes. He speaks to the student body and meets the students and teachers.

"It's one of my favorite things about this job!" he said. Many legislators may not even consider it part of their job, but Sen. Gatti does!

"I love to be around young people because you can feel how much potential for good they have. I love to spend time with each one and inspire them to do great things," he said. "When based on Biblical values, education is their hope for the future."

See SEN. RYAN on Page 2

Sen. Ryan Gatti Wants Kids Today to Have Same Opportunities He Had at Airline High

A Great School Gave Gatti And His Wife Opportunities For Leadership, Success

Continued from Page 1

“Our teachers are feeling the stress and weight of heavy testing and constant change from the state as one of the biggest obstacles in the classroom,” he said.

Why Visit So Many Schools

Sen. Gatti promised at the beginning of his term that he would visit every school in the district. He was able to keep that promise, visiting students and teachers on their own turf to answer questions and talk about the concerns for the future of Louisiana’s educational system.

“It was important to me to visit and speak with teachers, face to face,” Gatti said. “To really get a firm grasp on the struggles that they, as teachers, go through on a daily basis in their classrooms, especially with all the changes happening in the state.”

Sen. Gatti talked with his youngest constituents about the importance of representative democracy, consensus, and compromise, and what it’s like to be a state legislator. He engaged students in a participatory program about the legislature and presented each school with a Louisiana State Flag, as well as an American Flag.

Growing Up at Airline High

Since Ryan Gatti walked the halls of Airline High School as a student, he’s had a passion for public education. He was co-Valedictorian at Airline.

“When I think about Airline High and what it meant to me, I get emotional,” he said. “Except for God above and my family, most of the good things in my life started right there at Airline High School in Bossier City. I wonder at all the great role models I had in my teachers and coaches!”

The blessings of Airline High started with his wife Susan Lockhart Gatti, whom he met there. “I saw her walking the East Wing. I was a junior, and she was a sophomore. It was in front of Miss Cole’s room. We had no cell phones or Instagram! We actually had to talk!” They started dating.

For Ryan, high school was a busy time. He wrestled and played football. Airline baseball, led by future LSU great Todd Walker, was outstanding! Ryan wondered if everyone’s high school team was this good. He learned they weren’t and that it was a golden era of baseball at Airline.

Ryan’s dad owned a wrecking yard,



SEN. RYAN GATTI with wife Susan and daughters Katherine, Elizabeth, and Charlotte

“When I think about Airline High and what it meant to me, I get emotional. Except for God above and my parents, most of the good things I have in life started for me at Airline High, including my wife Susan! It was a place filled with opportunity and great role models in my teachers and coaches!”

— Sen. Ryan Gatti

and the family struggled to make ends meet. While working for his dad and at other jobs, Ryan studied hard. Ultimately, he graduated with a 4.2 average and was named co-Valedictorian of his Airline High Class of 1992.

College and Marriage

Susan went to Baylor and Ryan to LSU but they continued to date. De-



SEN. RYAN GATTI speaking at DARE graduation at Saline Elementary School.

spite humble origins, he was invited to join a fraternity and ultimately was elected president of Kappa Sigma.

Susan moved to LSU and earned her B.A., Masters, and Ph.D. in psychology. Ryan completed his undergraduate studies after only two years and nine months. After earning his B.A., he decided to take a year off school to work and earn money. He was admitted to LSU Law School the next year.

That summer, Ryan and Susan were married — after courting for six years.

On his first day of law school in the fall of 1996, Ryan was seated next to a young military officer named John Bel Edwards. The instructor said, “Look to your right and look to you left! One of you won’t be here long!” Ryan said, “Looking at John Bel’s military bearing, I thought I’m in trouble!” Actually, they both finished law school successfully.

“John Bel was super smart and was on track to be general, and I couldn’t figure out why he left the military,” Ryan said.

Little did they know that 20 years later, Edwards would be the new Governor of Louisiana, while Gatti himself

would be a new State Senator.

Edwards is a Democrat and Gatti a Republican. They remain friends and are able to work together on some important things. However, they have crossed swords on a number of occasions. Gatti refused to support Edwards’ tax increases. On the other hand, Edwards vetoed a very important bill by Ryan Gatti.

Ryan Gatti explained why he enrolled in law school. He came from a poor family. While working at his dad’s wrecking yard, he met a number of lawyers, and they all seemed to be prosperous. His teachers also encouraged him to go to law school. He came to see it as a way to earn money and help people.

Once enrolled at the LSU Law School, Ryan Gatti excelled and was elected Student Government Association president. Ironically, it was the future state senator — not the future governor — who won that post! Ryan also served as the Student Member of the LSU Board of Regents, which gave him a view inside state government at an early age.

Family and a Law Practice

Ryan graduated from LSU Law School in 1999 just before the birth of their first daughter, Katherine. They stayed in Baton Rouge while Susan finished her graduate studies in psychology. For awhile, Ryan was a stay-at-home dad taking care of Katherine while Susan was at school. After an internship at the LSU Health Services Center in New Orleans and work as a school psychologist, Susan received an offer to go to the Children’s Center at LSUHCS in Shreveport.

Ryan and Susan returned to Bossier City, and Ryan began the practice of law in 2000. Susan went to work at LSUHCS where she became an assistant professor.

Over the years, Ryan handled many important cases and became successful in the practice of law. From 2007 to 2008, he served as Judge of worker’s compensation cases in Shreveport.

Their second daughter, Elizabeth, was born in 2002.

Their third daughter, Rebecca, suffered a serious brain injury as a result of an avoidable medical error. Susan had to resign from LSU-Shreveport to care for her.

In 2010, their fourth daughter, Charlotte, was born.

Rebecca passed away in 2017. The details of the tragedy are recorded in the family blog.

The oldest daughter, Katherine, now 19, was President of her class at Airline High, Editor of the school newspaper, the *Askalada*, and a member of the Homecoming Court her Senior Year. She attended Girls State and was Founder of Project Prayer. Katherine graduated from Airline High with a 4.2 average, scored 34 on the ACT, and was awarded a scholarship to TCU.

Daughter Elizabeth, 17, is a student at Airline High where she is Student Body Jr. Vice President. In 2016, she was Bossier Parish Student of the Year. She was a nominee for Governor at Youth Legislature and President of Fellowship of Christian Athletes. She was Co-Captain of the cheer squad at Cope Middle and has been a volunteer at many community and church and mission trips.

Daughter Charlotte, 8, just completed the third grade at W. T. Lewis Elementary. She enjoys writing, language, and math. She plays softball, participates in gymnastics, and enjoys art, cheer, and dance. On her first day of school, she made an impression when she passed out Christian tracts to the students.

See SEN. GATTI on Page 10



SEN. RYAN GATTI

A PRO-FAMILY LEADER for LOUISIANA

- 100% voting record with Louisiana Right to Life
- 100% voting record with Louisiana Family Forum
- Authored landmark legislation providing serious sentences for selling body parts of the unborn
- Criminal penalties for coercing an abortion
- Strict regulations on abortion clinics
- Prohibit abortion after 15 weeks

SEN. RYAN GATTI

2123 Shed Road • Bossier City, LA 71111
318-746-0861 • 844-824-6937



Sen. Gatti Is Everywhere in Dist. 36



SENATOR RYAN GATTI
 Bossier, Webster, Bienville & Claiborne Parishes
 Reaches Out to the People through
 Town Hall Meetings, Visits to Schools, Civic Clubs
 and Countless Meetings with Groups and Individuals



**Memorable
 Speeches**
 in the
 Louisiana Senate
 by Sen. Ryan Gatti



RIGHT TO LIFE
 May 22, 2019
 HB425 by
 Rep. Katrina Jackson
 One of Sen. Gatti's
 greatest speeches

Download QR Code
 Reader and Point Phone Here



TEACHERS PAY
 May 22, 2019
 SCR 3 by
 Sen. Morrish
 Sen. Ryan Gatti on
 Teachers Pay Raise

Download QR Code
 Reader and Point Phone Here



**SALES TAX
 FOR ROADS**
 April 7, 2017
 Governor's Plan
 Sen. Ryan Gatti on
 Why He's Voting No

Download QR Code
 Reader and Point Phone Here



Meet Ryan and Susan Gatti

RYAN GATTI

B.A., LSU • J.D., LSU Law School
 Member • Board of Regents
 President • LSU Law School SGA
 President • Bossier Parish Bar
 Association
 Judge • Workers Comp Court
 Attorney • Gatti & Merckle
 Louisiana Senator (2016-present)
 Vice Chairman • Senate Insurance
 Committee

DR. SUSAN LOCKHART GATTI

B.A., M.A. and Ph.D.
 Psychology • LSU
 School Psychologist
 Assistant Professor
 LSU Health Sciences Center
 Susan and Ryan have been
 married 23 years. They have
 four children.
 Daughters Katherine,
 Elizabeth, Rebecca (deceased),
 and Charlotte

Sen. Ryan Gatti: An Inside Look at 1st of Seven Special Sessions

Persevering During Special Sessions

Legislators Found Themselves in BR During Endless Special Sessions

Sen. Ryan Gatti
Louisiana Senate, District 36

NOTE: I wrote the following at the end of the first week of the first of seven special sessions during this four-year term of the Louisiana Legislature. You can see that I began with a very hopeful and positive attitude.

BATON ROUGE — We have completed the first week of the special session. We are holding our ground that significant cuts must be made during this special session for this fiscal year before any taxes will be considered. We need cuts to programs where abuse is rampant and cuts to programs that are outside of the state government's role. This is the only way to right size the government.

While you may hear many of the same things from the media and political posturing from people running for higher office, I want to share with you an amazing and significant change. I'll provide just four examples that show we are on the right track.

First, the "Save Act," the Jindal sleight of hand to "get-money-to-higher-ed-without-passing-a-tax" tax that was passed last year. It has been used as the main example given to show the level of confusion exhibited by legislators last term. This law was repealed in the first vote of the House in this special session.

This sent a clear message to the citizens that we are going to undo the bad decisions that were forced down the legislature's throat. We are going to make good on our promise to turn off the smoke and take down the mirrors and be honest. This was an ice breaker that was long overdue. I was proud to listen to the debate and see the leadership of the author — it's the necessary leadership that we need to move ahead.

Second, honest testimony before committees on tough issues — even if it "hurts" — will be the standard. Testimony before committees is expected to be truthful. For legal purposes, it is given under penalty of perjury. While emotion and political bias are allowed, the objective facts and numbers from those testifying must be accurate, because that is how legislators make their decisions. Just like testimony before a judge or jury hearing testimony in a case.

In several committee meetings this special session, staff for executive branch agencies has "confessed" that numbers were not reported to the committee with the upmost accuracy. The prior administration



SEN. RYAN GATTI with new Webster registrar XXX and retiring register XXX; XXX; and Sen. Gatti in committee



SEN. RYAN GATTI with Northwest Louisiana mayors



SEN. RYAN GATTI withXXXXX

“In previous years, the Governor's ideas on the Budget were rubber-stamped by the legislature... Legislators asked a few questions but ultimately followed. That is not the case today. Agency staff members are being questioned, quizzed, and cross examined on significant issues. The House is going through each bill asking for fiscal impact and revenue statements. No quick actions have been taken. This methodical process is what our state needs.”

— Sen. Ryan Gatti on how the process is changing

did not place a premium on accuracy. They report now that they have been instructed by the executive branch to be "honest" and "truthful" at all costs. This is a refreshing and new concept! This change alone will lead to a better dialogue between the executive and legislative branches on all accounting and fiscal matters.

Third, questions are being asked and legislative accountability is being implemented.

In previous years, the Governor's ideas were rubber stamped by the legislature, because there was trust in their numbers. The legislators asked a few questions but ultimately followed because the numbers presented required a "yes" vote. That is not the case this special session. Trust but verify is the analytical process we

have implemented with the Governor's office. Agency staff members are being questioned, quizzed, and cross examined on significant issues.

The House is going through each bill asking for fiscal impact and revenue statements. No quick actions have been taken. This methodical process is what our state needs.

Fourth, cuts are being made to state government — real cuts! Many of these cuts are permanent and they are in areas where it will actually make a difference. Gov. Edwards was lobbied by our party to include a broad road to cut expenditures for the 2015-2016 fiscal year during the special session. We wanted the ability to chip away at the waste that is in the current year's budget.

Many of us thought the

special session would be limited to raising taxes, because the Governor has 100 percent authority over items that can be legislated in the special session. Special session calls usually follow party lines.

On February 5, 2016, I received my copy of the Special Session agenda laid out by the Governor's office. The very first item states: "To provide for reductions (i.e. cuts) to the ordinary operating expenses of the state government for the Fiscal Year 2015-2016." This did not have to be included in the agenda, but it was. As such, we are allowed to cut the budget this year during the special session. It is never easy to make cuts, because midyear cuts are not based on waste or audits.

We are cutting Jindal's budget that passed last year

and runs through June 30. We are cutting his budget because projected income is a billion short of actual income received. These special session cuts are real and significant and are a microcosm of the cuts that will be put in place in all foreseeable budgets.

I have drafted bills to be discussed during the special session to reduce expenditures. Again, I can promise that we will not ask for taxes or for a parent of a disabled child, a TOPS recipient or a teacher to suffer cuts if we plan on wasting those same dollars on business ideas that are sure to fail. The government should not be in the business of being in business with someone or giving seed money to business ideas that are sure to fail.

Lastly, the MFP that funds education and Supplemental Pay to fire and police are items that are sure to be attacked this session. These are the largest part of the "\$3.6 billion that the state sends to local governments" that you hear about on radio and T.V. While MFP and Supplemental Pay are not discussed individually, they are included each time you hear "\$3.6 billion that the state sends to locals." They are also constitutional dedications. I am committed to fight to protect the MFP and Supplemental Pay!

Citizens and legislators working together are needed to curb wasteful spending.



SEN. RYAN GATTI with Minden High ladies basketball team

Northwest LA Senator Receives Highest Award

Family Forum Honors Sen. Gatti

Things You May Not Know About Sen. Ryan Gatti

• **Personal Best** - Besides his legislation on the right to life, the bill Sen. Ryan Gatti is proudest of is on Foster Care. Under the old law, kids could not stay in Foster Care after their 18th birthday, even if still in high school. The Gatti bill, which is now law, allows youngsters to stay with their foster families until they graduate from high school up to age 21. He said, "I believe this will do much to help Foster Care kids move into the mainstream of society instead of being kicked onto the streets."

• **Outstanding Spouse** - Sen. Gatti's wife, Susan Lockhart Gatti, is highly accomplished in her own right. She has a bachelor's, master's, and Ph.D. in psychology and has been Assistant Professor at LSU-Shreveport.

• **Ethics & Religious Liberty** - Sen. Gatti serves as a member of the Southern Baptist Convention's Commission on Ethics and Religious Liberty. This is a key policy-making body that guides Southern Baptist churches on policy matters between their annual meeting.

• **Mission Trips** - Sen. Gatti has a passion for missions and takes a mission trip every year to Haiti, Mexico, or El Salvador.



Senator Ryan Gatti

Receiving the highest award from the Louisiana Family Forum

Sen. Ryan Gatti: A Spokesman for Family Values in Louisiana Senate

BATON ROUGE — The Louisiana Family Forum (LFF) recognized District 36 State Senator, Ryan Gatti, as a recipient of its highest award — the Life and Liberty Award — at its Annual Legislative Awards Gala in Baton Rouge.

The Senator was asked to address the annual statewide event.

The Life and Liberty Award is given to legislators who successfully pass the most important legislation of the year that promotes life, liberty, and limited government.

Sen. Gatti was chosen as a recipient thanks to his Senate Bill 33 of the 2016 Regular Legislative Session. SB 33, now Act 196, which bans the sale, receipt, transfer or acquisition of a fetal organ or body part from an induced abortion. It subjects those who violate the law to felony prosecution with a minimum of 10 years in prison and a fine of up to \$50,000 if convicted.

"I am truly honored to have been chosen for this award," Sen. Gatti said. "Children are our hope and our destiny. They are not merchandise. If you sell baby parts in Louisiana, you will go to jail — period!"

Sen. Gatti had a perfect 100 percent voting record with Louisiana Family Forum and also received the coveted Patrick Henry Award for his voting record.

Nominate Someone for 'Mama Pelican' Award

Sen. Gatti Has Created A Way to Honor Those Who Make a Difference In Our District, State

BOSSIER CITY — When Sen. Ryan Gatti was first elected to the State Senate, he noticed that very few schools and businesses have or display the Louisiana flag.

He decided to remedy that by bringing a Louisiana flag when he spoke somewhere. Soon he began telling the story of the Louisiana flag and the great lesson of the Mama Pelican who pierces her own breast if necessary to feed her young.

He noticed the three drops of blood on the pelican's breast and saw them as a reminder that Louisianians will make great sacrifices for their children and their fellow man.

Sen. Gatti also noticed that there are great role models among us who epitomize the sacrifice of the Mama Pelican. That led him to create an award — the Mama Pelican Award — which he presents to very special people.

He found a committee to consider nominees, and he has presented a number of Mama Pelican Awards to deserving recipients.

Recipients can be from anywhere in Louisiana, male or female, and of any age. To make a nomination, send an essay about the person nominated to essay@mamapelican.com.

The Story of the Mama Pelican in the Words of Sen. Ryan Gatti

"Our state flag tells a powerful story about Louisiana's people. The Mama Pelican goes out into the swamp to feed her young chicks, but she finds no food. Most would abandon their young when times get tough, but this Mama Pelican is different."

"She returns to the nest and plucks her breast, then feeds her

own blood to her babies."

"The three drops of blood on the flag represent the pain of her sacrifice."

"Our flag reminds us of the Mama Pelicans in our lives. Students say the flag reminds them of family members, mentors, teachers, police, fireman, military, and even Christ on the Cross."

"They generously sacrifice their time, talent or treasure so others can have a better life. Thank the Mama Pelicans in your life!"

Send Sen. Gatti an essay nominating the Mama Pelican in your life for a Mama Pelican Award. Selected winners will receive a certificate. Email your essays to essays@mamapelican.com



SEN. RYAN GATTI presents flag at retirement ceremonies for Julie Dupree.

Awards Received by Sen. Ryan Gatti Since He Became Senator

Sen. Ryan Gatti has received the following honors and awards:

- 2019 Legislator of the Year by the Professional Fire Fighters Association of Louisiana
- 2018 Outstanding Senator Award from the Louisiana Ambulance Alliance
- 2018 Southeast Louisiana United Way State Legislative Champion
- 2018 Louisiana Family Forum Family Advocate
- 2017 Received plaque from Bossier City Firefighters Association for dedication and continued support for firefighters.
- 2017 Louisiana Family Forum's Patrick Henry Award for voting record
- 2017 Louisiana Family Forum Outstanding Family Advocate
- 2016 Louisiana Family Forum's Life and Liberty Award

Sen. Ryan Gatti in the News, Working



Sen. Ryan Gatti with Morgan and Kirk Grantham whose daughter was Katie Bug.

Team Katie Bug: Parents Seek Justice After Daughter's Death

BATON ROUGE — Morgan Grantham said she relives the auto accident that took her daughter's life every day.

"I have extreme PTSD," said Grantham, who was driving her 4-year-old daughter Katie to a birthday party when they were hit by another driver in Benton on Nov. 17, 2017.

"Katie Bug," as she was called by her family, died a few days later from her injuries.

Grantham suspects the man who caused the accident was impaired by drugs, but police don't automatically draw blood to test for alcohol and drugs unless there is a fatality on the scene, so he was never tested nor charged with being impaired.

That could change if the Legislature approves Senate Bill 138 by Sen. Ryan Gatti, R-Bossier City.

The bill cleared its first hurdle here Tuesday after winning approval from the Senate Judiciary C Committee.

Grantham gave powerful testimony, softly weeping when talking about her daughter and the bill.

She and her husband, Kirk, were joined by more than 20 supporters — a group known as Team Katie Bug.

"This won't prevent another accident, but it will make sure ev-

erybody will be held accountable," said Grantham. "It's not exactly what you'd choose your child to be remembered by, but it's important."

Gatti knows the Granthams' pain. He lost a daughter to a brain injury in 2017.

"This is close to my heart," Gatti said.

Gatti's bill would require blood tests for any accident in which there is a severe injury on the scene.

"When blood isn't drawn it's hard to prove impairment, so the victimized families suffer both tragic loss and injustice," Gatti said. "I hope this bill can give a family justice that has been delayed."

Grantham said her daughter never regained consciousness following the accident.

When asked what she would like people to know about Katie Bug, she said, "I want people to know she was the most perfect addition to our family God could have ever given to us."

A duplicate bill by Rep. Raymond Crews, R-Bossier City, could also be heard in the House if Gatti's bill stalls.

Greg Hilburn covers state politics for the USA TODAY Network of Louisiana. Follow him on Twitter @GregHilburn1

— Monroe News Star

Bill Advances to Block Furloughs For Murderers

BATON ROUGE — A legislative committee on Tuesday narrowly approved a bill that would exclude convicted murderers from Louisiana's use of medical furloughs for ailing prison inmates.

The bill by Sen. Ryan Gatti of Bossier City was approved, 4-3, by the Senate Judiciary C Committee and sent to the full Senate for debate.

The impetus for the bill is the case of 78-year-old Clyde Giddens, who is serving a life sentence for the 1963 murder and dismemberment of Earline Bamburg of Red River Parish but is seeking a medical furlough that would allow him to be released from Louisiana State Penitentiary in Angola.

RELATED REPORT: Family forced to relive heinous murder fights killer's medical furlough request The ailing Giddens has sought to be moved to a health-care facility under the state's expanded use of medical furloughs for inmates in declining health. It's part of efforts to reduce the state's prison population, concentrate more on alternatives to incarceration and save tens of millions of dollars each year. The state parole board last month denied Giddens' request for medical furlough.

Dennis and Margie Bamburg say they have been forced over and over to relive the brutal murder of Dennis' mother in 1963 as the killer continues to seek freedom.

Bamburg's son, Dennis, testified before the committee on Tuesday and told lawmakers how the murder of his mother and Giddens' repeated requests to have his sentence reduced have affected his family.

"We have been to many, many of those (clemency) hearings," Bamburg said. "You gotta prepare for it; you gotta go down and tell people and relive it. It just keeps your family disrupted."

A representative of Louisiana's Department of Corrections said medical furloughs will save the state money, telling lawmakers Medicaid would pay 90 percent of the costs if an inmate was moved to a nursing home.

Gatti said his bill would also require nursing homes to give patients and their families notice if the nursing home is taking someone convicted of first- or second-degree murder.

"You get more notice when a sex offender moves in 500 yards from your house than when a murderer moves five feet from your grandma in the nursing home," Gatti told committee members.

— Source ????????



Sen. Gatti Wins Round

BATON ROUGE — Three young women from Bossier City won Senate Bill 512 by Sen. Ryan Gatti to allow students when student initiate the prayer. The bill



Members of the Louisiana Senate being sworn in.

Ryan Gatti Is New

BATON ROUGE — One of 11 new senate members, the Bossier City republican was officially sworn in during an organizational session of the Louisiana State Senate Monday at the State Capitol in Baton Rouge.

"I am honored to have the opportunity to serve the people of Senate District 36," Senator Gatti said. "We have many challenges ahead. I am ready for the hard work needed to balance our state budget and make our colleges and universities and our education system the true priorities they should be."

In the coming months, the 41 year old attorney and small business owner will also focus on infrastructure needs in the area, growing the state's energy sector, and standing with education leaders and teachers. Other issues important to growing the state's economy and developing good paying jobs, such as workforce development and improving local schools, are also on Gatti's priority list.

Beyond Parties: Sen. Ryan Gatti, The Governor, Foster Kids and Fol

BATON ROUGE - Following your heart; helping people; doing good—all admirable. But for a politician—when does doing the right thing become a political liability?

A recent lunch in Bossier City put that question to the test; a luncheon with two main players—a republican senator and a democratic governor—and plenty of people in need.

Governor John Bel Edwards recently spoke to the Louisiana Task Force to extend foster care through the age of 21.

That was a problem Bossier City Senator Ryan Gatti has been addressing—but it left some questioning the politics of how he did it.

"My bill simply asks that the child remain funded by the state until they graduate or attain the

age of 21." Gatti said in a senate hearing during a session of the Louisiana legislature.

Foster children 'aging out' of the system has become a cause for Senator Ryan Gatti—both in the legislature — and at a luncheon at this family home in Bossier City, dubbed "The Stable".

"Susan and I have had several events at our house to raise awareness for foster children," Gatti said, "foster children are our hope and future and need our help."

To strengthen his case for foster kids to stay in foster homes after age 18, Gatti turned to foster parents. "Ryan was listening, when I didn't know he was listening," said Sage Easter, "and without our knowledge he wrote the

bill. We got a surprise message he had written SB129.

"Let's talk about where kids end up that age out," Gatti said in the senate hearing, "about twenty percent end up in prison; 25 percent end up homeless."

With a million dollars from the state—Gatti's bill passed.

We found a way to pay for the implementation of the new policy," said Gov. John Bel Edwards, "Ryan has always been a champion of foster care."

As evidenced by past events; a June 2017 crawfish boil at Gatti's home requested donations for the pregnancy center and foster families.

Last December Gatti hosted Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser—again asking for gift cards for foster families or donations to Toys for Tots.

But, a third event featuring special guest Gov. John Bel Edwards—a Democrat—generated attention around the state.

An article on the website "The Hayride" carried the headline: "Why is Ryan Gatti using John Bel Edwards as a fundraising tool?"

Gatti said he wasn't.

"I'm not going to get into that," said Gatti, "in Louisiana a rising tide raises all ships. We're always going to have people get mad when you act civil in politics. They want to see an MMA fight."

"Senator Gatti and I have been friends since the first day of law school in 1996," Gov. Edwards said.

So, the Democratic governor was happy to help the Republican senator. "The last thing we want to do is become Washington, DC,"

Edwards said, "which is so typical—precisely because different parties never talk to each other—and they don't listen."

"There's no doubt he can agree on everything," said Gatti, "but we do agree on helping foster families and those p

Speaking of foster kids, Edwards received baskets full of gift help with back to school ex

As for the politics of it all, Jeremy Alford weighed in and the governor.

"What's happening is y some hard line Republican some hard line Democrat Alford, "and they don't when those lines are cross

And there could be a price for that bipartisanship. "This is not a risk free end

to Make Life Better for NW Louisiana



nd for School Prayer

from Northwest Louisiana testified in favor of school faculty members and staff to pray with students. The measure passed the legislature and was signed into law.



... during organizational session in January 2016

Senator for Dist. 36

“As a long time resident of Northwest Louisiana and a father of four daughters, I want to make sure all of our children have an opportunity for a bright future in this state,” Gatti said.

Sen. Gatti is a graduate of Airline High School in Bossier City, LSU-Baton Rouge and LSU School of Law. He is currently Vice-Chairman of the Republican Party of Bossier Parish and has served as a District Judge in the local Workers’ Compensation Court. He will continue his private legal practice in Bossier City.

Sen. Gatti is a member of First Baptist in Bossier City and serves as a deacon and teacher. He is married to Dr. Susan Lockhart Gatti, a psychologist with a specialty in school psychology. The couple has four daughters: Katherine, Elizabeth, Rebecca and Charlotte.

Senate District 36 includes all of Webster Parish, as well as parts of Bossier, Bienville and Claiborne. — *Minden News Herald*

Following Your Heart

...dysfunc- people of k to one ten.”

...d I don’t d Gatti, ping our parents.” they re- cards to penses. l, analyst on Gatti

...you have ans and ts,” said t like it ed.” ce to pay eavor for

Senator Gatti, “Alford said, “he could potentially lose votes over this.”

Politics aside—the most recent get together at the senator’s house a clear winner—foster kids.

“Thrilled,” said Sage Easter, “didn’t believe it at first; because it takes money, but it’s been funded and we are extremely excited.”

“I would hope this is a harbinger of more bipartisanship,” Edwards said.

SB129 was funded with \$1-million from the state; allowing the program to draw down another \$3-million from federal funds. And that will keep the kids in their foster homes after age 18.

As for the politics of it all, Gatti says he’s not worried—what’s important is finding common ground and coming together as citizens of Louisiana. — *KTBS-TV*

Gov. Edwards, Sen. Ryan Gatti Break Ground On Interchange

BOSSIER CITY - Governor Edwards was among state, local, and military leaders [including Sen. Ryan Gatti] grabbing shovels to break ground on the I-20/I-220 Barksdale Interchange.

The \$72 million project is expected to take nearly three years to complete. The expanded interchange will provide easier access to the air force base. Backers say it’ll improve security and traffic congestion at other entry points at the base.

“It’s going to lead right into the military base,” said Shawn Wilson with DOTD. “It’s going to help on Industrial and Airline in terms of directing local traffic that has to wait on railroad tracks to be able to go straight off I-20 or 220 to make it into the base safely

Construction should start by the end of the summer. — *KTBS-TV*



Aerial view of Sen. Ryan Gatti’s No. 1 priority — the Barksdale Extension for I-220

“We are glad to bring this project to fruition,” said State Sen. Ryan Gatti, who worked with Gov. Edwards to get the project on the priority list. “This will not only benefit the people on the base, but the businesses and communities that support the base as well. We are excited to see it move forward!”

— Sen. Ryan Gatti as reported by Bossier Press

Free and Clear at Lake Bistineau

LAKE BISTINEAU - For more than a century, property owners around Lake Bistineau have been dealing with a legal quirk that make it difficult and expensive to get clear title to their land.

Now one northwest Louisiana lawmaker is making it easier for folks to sell or refinance their homes—even though they have to pay a fee.

“A lot of people were under the impression the state was just going to give you the land,” said Catherine Hunt, “the state’s not going to give you anything.”

So, Lake Bistineau homeowner Catherine Hunt embarked on a four-year process to gain full title to the land upon which sits her house.

“It was extremely difficult to say the least,” Hunt said.

It was a problem dating back more than a century—creating a title blemish because of something called the meander line.

“The meander line is just where the water line meanders back and forth,” said Senator Ryan Gatti, “and that’s your property line with the state.”

Anything below the meander line heading toward the lake — belongs to the state—above the line belongs to the homeowner.

Hunt’s house was below the line; that was a problem, so Hunt decided to do something about it.

With Gatti’s help—who is an attorney by trade—Hunt set out to find a way to take clear title to her land.

“The land office really did not want to do it,” Hunt explained.

“Every time we hit an obstacle,” said Gatti, “she kept fighting.”

Hunt says gaining clear title may not have been possible without Gatti—whose duty to his constituents overshadowed his profession.

“One way to solve a title blemish is to do through litigation,” said Gatti, “that’s costly and you

may not win.”

But Hunt needed a sure thing. “Senator Gatti, being an attorney—I think that helped him cut through a lot of the bull.” Hunt said. Eventually Gatti streamlined the problem of taking clear title to Lake Bistineau land ownership.

“We just came up with a simple solution,” said Gatti, “where the state was paid for the land after it was appraised-- and the only person who could buy the land-- was the person who owned the home on the land.”

It was a long and winding road—but appears to be a win/win all around.

“The state gets the money,” said Gatti, “which is allocated to the Bistineau Salvinia Eradication Fund, and the folks get a clear title to their land.”

But one small problem remains;

each time somebody wants to take clear title—a separate bill has to be filed.

“Rather than having to file 200 bills at a time to fix this,” said Gatti, “I think they see the problem now. They see we’re going to keep filing these bills; and hopefully we can knock it all out with one law next year.”

But for right now—Catherine Hunt is preparing to sell her home—and breathing easier.

“I’m just glad it’s over,” Hunt said, “it was a long process.”

Once Gatti got involved, Hunt’s four-year odyssey wrapped up in about a year.

“Act 191” is a no cost process for citizens; and Gatti stands ready to help anybody who needs it.

All you have to do is contact his office.

By Jeff Beimfohr, KTBS



Catherine Hunt’s house at Lake Bistineau. Houses like this now have protection.

Senator Passes Bills to Improve Our Lives

From Holding Down Taxes to Protecting Our Families to a Fair Justice System

BATON ROUGE — Sen. Ryan E. Gatti is honored to serve as State Senator for portions of Bossier, Claiborne and Bienville and all of Webster Parish. He serves on the standing committees of Judiciary A, Natural Resources, and Veterans Affairs and is Vice-Chairman of the Senate Insurance Committee.

Below is a list of many of the bills he has personally written since taking the oath of office in January 2016. Of the 62 bills filed, 29 were signed by the Governor and became law. All may be read in detail on the legislative site at www.legis.la.gov.

If you have questions, concerns or ideas you think will help Sen. Gatti better serve you, please email him gattir@legis.la.gov or give him a call on his personal cell at (318) 560-6587.

2016 Regular Session

SB33/Act 196 - RIGHT TO LIFE - Prohibits sale or transport of body parts of aborted babies.

SB34 - INSURANCE - Prohibits increase in vehicle liability insurance rates under certain circumstances.

SB35 - INSURANCE - Requires insurance for handling explosives.

SB39 - HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION - Constitutional amendment to increase the homestead exemption.

SB41 - FUNDS - Increases supplemental pay for certain law enforcement officers and firefighters to \$1,000 per month.

SB44/Act 470 - WORKERS' COMP - Provides workers' compensation insurance premium reductions for certain employers.

SB46 - CRIME - Excludes carrying a concealed handgun from the crime of illegal carrying of weapons for certain persons.

SB76 - CIVIL SERVICE - Constitutional amendment to remove prohibition against civil servants being able to engage in political activities.

SB77 - FUNDS - Abolishes statutory dedication of funds.

SB78 - MALPRACTICE - Increases



es medical malpractice cap for certain child brain injuries.

SB83 - PRESCRIPTION - Extends period within which to file tort actions from one to two years.

SB84/Act 332 - CIVIL SERVICE - Provides relative to the sanctions for engaging in political activities for municipal fire and police civil service classified employees.

SB142/Act 191 - PUBLIC LANDS - Authorizes the commissioner of administration to transfer state property in Webster Parish.

SB146 - CAPITAL OUTLAY - Provides for institutions of higher education to use capital outlay funds first for deferred maintenance.

SB147 - SCHOOLS: Provides for charter schools to pay a proportionate share of local school districts' Teachers' Retirement System unaccrued liability.

SB 148/Act 614 - STATE AGENCIES - Abolishes inactive boards and commissions, and districts.

SB149 - SCHOOLS - Provides relative to funding of virtual charter schools.

SB197 - PUBLIC CONTRACTS - Requires standard procurement process for solicitations between the state and private entities for hospital services, health care, or other services over \$1 million.

SB198 - BESE - Prohibits BESE from granting Type 2 charters in certain school districts.

SB340 - PUBLIC CONTRACTS - Creates the Privatization Review Act

SB401 - CIVIL PROCEDURE - Provides relative to civil jury trial threshold.

SB415 - WATER/WATERWAYS - Creates Lake Bistineau Recreation and Water Conservation District.

SB426 - ENVIRONMENT - Prohibits open burning of explosives.

SCR68 - HEALTH SERVICES - Urges the Dept. of Defense and Louisiana Dept. of Health and Hospitals to coordinate efforts to provide information to military families regarding services for intellectual or developmental disabilities.

SCR2 - HEALTH CARE - Legislature to study decreasing the use of emergency rooms in hospitals across

LEGISLATURE

Ryan Gatti: Champion Of Rights of The Unborn

BATON ROUGE — Sen. Ryan Gatti sponsored landmark legislation which prohibits the sale or transportation of body parts of aborted babies.

The bill, which passed the Louisiana Legislature and was signed into law in 2016 by Gov. John Bel Edwards, is intended to stop the barbaric practice of trafficking in human body parts acquired from unborn children. Fines are \$50,000 and 10 years in prison for the first offense with increasing penalties for multiple offenders.

The legislation, which gained national attention, has already been credited with shutting down an abortion clinic in Shreveport.

Gatti said one of the dirty secrets of the abortion industry is that trafficking in human body parts is a ghoulish but highly profitable part of the business.

The Gatti bill has been challenged in federal court and could eventually make its way to the U.S. Supreme Court, setting up an historic test case of the Louisiana law.

Louisiana for primary care instead of emergencies.

2016 2nd Special Session

SB1 - TAX EXEMPTIONS - Restores sales tax exemption for admissions to athletic and entertainment

See KEY on Page 11

A Look Inside Sen. Ryan Gatti's Notebook...

From Sen. Ryan Gatti's Notebook

March 8

Protecting our 2nd Amendment Rights:

As many of you know, there is an extreme backlog in receiving your concealed carry permit after passing the class. Some constituents have waited months. If you have taken the class, passed and are simply waiting on your concealed carry permit to arrive, then please contact our office at 318-746-0861 and let us know how long you have been waiting. We will help expedite this process if we can.

Last year, I filed SB 46 by Sen. Gatti to remedy this problem but it did not make it out of committee. The bill simply protected the law-abiding citizen's right to carry a weapon. It provided that if a law-abiding citizen was written a ticket for carrying a concealed weapon, then they would have six months to take the class and pass. If they did take the class and pass, then the charge would be dropped. If they did not take the class and pass or if they could not pass the background check, then the charge would stand.

March 14

The education debate can be quite confusing. Many times, standing up for public schools



PRAYING OVER THE SENATE — Sen. Ryan Gatti opens a session of the Louisiana Senate with prayer as Senate President John Alario and a Senate staff member bow their heads.

and teachers costs you something. I have been called some pretty harsh names for standing up for public schools. We have some of the best public schools in the state in my district. I will continue to stand for public schools and our teachers.

I authored SB 147 of 2016 that addressed the encroachment of charter schools into the funding of public schools. The bill did not pass. A few of the charter schools that testified against my bill were "F" schools taking kids from a "C" school. This bill

specifically addressed the fact that our tax dollars should be appropriated to protect funding for our public schools.

On one side, LABI, Louisiana Federation for Children and NORTH PAC want to expand charter schools into all districts

— even A and B districts — and defund public schools. On the other side are the parents, teachers, retirees and students in the public-school system. These citizens want to protect funding for public schools and keep politics out of funding.

March 31

Reducing Taxes: Mineral royalties and mineral bonuses paid by companies to landowners should not be taxed. Small landowners struggle to pay these taxes. The state's spending problem can only be stopped with tax reductions.

I filed SB 47 to reduce taxes on mineral royalty and bonus payments to zero. Minerals should not be taxed because they are merely part of the real estate. Encourage legislators to support this bill. We must reduce taxes on property owners.

September 16

Dropped off the last load of relief supplies yesterday in Baton Rouge. Thanks for all the donations!

Family Forum

It was a great honor to receive the Life and Liberty Award last night from the Louisiana Family Forum for SB 33. This law makes it a felony to sell fetal remains from an induced abortion. One step closer to protecting the dignity of the unborn! Thanks for your prayers and support!

Honest, Hardworking Senator with Traditional Values

Sen. Ryan Gatti's Guiding Principles

Guiding Principles

by Sen. Ryan Gatti

- Stopping Abortion
- Prayer in School
- Balanced Budgets
- Fighting Taxes
- Cutting Wasteful Spending
- Require Able-Bodied to Work
- Promote Existing Family-Owned Businesses
- Tough on Violent Crime
- Pro-Law Enforcement
- Honesty and Ethics



ADDRESSING ANNUAL BANQUET OF LOUISIANA FAMILY FORUM — After being honored with the Life and Liberty Award for his support of the family, Sen. Ryan Gatti addressed the annual banquet of the Louisiana Family Forum at Healing Place Church in Baton Rouge.

Meet Sen. Ryan Gatti

- Louisiana State Senate 2016-present
- Vice Chairman, Senate Insurance Committee
- Member of Senate Committees on Natural Resources, Judiciary A, and Veterans Affairs
- Vice Chairman, Republican Party of Bossier
- Partner, Law Firm of Gatti & Merckle
- Former Judge, Worker Compensation, State of Louisiana
- Juris Doctor, LSU Law
- B.A., LSU
- While in Law School, he was a clerk in Senate
- President, SGA at LSU Law School
- Student Member, La. Board of Regents
- Honors College
- President of Kappa Sig fraternity at LSU
- Co-Valedictorian, Airline High School
- Owner, Shade Trees, a farm in North Webster
- President, Bossier Parish Bar Association
- Married for 20 years to Susan Lockhart, Doctor of Psychology
- They have four daughters including one who passed away.

We Stand for Those Who Cannot Stand

Continued from Page 1

hand of covenant, oath and thanksgiving. It reminds us that the patriots who fought to protect our freedoms, started their journey by raising their right hands into the air and pledging their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor to protect America and its people. Our right hand, because when we see them again we will extend the right hand of thanksgiving, shake their hand, and thank them for their service, whether it's here on earth or in heaven.

We sing the words, even if we cannot sing well, because our speech has creative power; it binds us to the past and protects our future freedom. Singing the National Anthem renews our patriotism and deflates our differences. We are reminded that when a battle is lost or a country falls to an enemy, the first ceremony is removal of the losing flag and the hoisting of the enemy flag. The enemies' removal of the flag is a universal sign of victory. The words of our Anthem penetrate the heart of our enemy and remind them that we are a force that has been battle-tested and

has persevered. After a vicious, all-night battle, at the dawn's first light, the flag was still there! That scene has been repeated over and over during America's lifetime. Brave men and women of all races, creeds, and colors putting it all on the line to win the battle and keep the colors flying.

While we don't have an anthem for every heroic battle in our history, the "Star Spangled Banner" reminds us that every right, privi-

lege and freedom we have today was secured, is being secured, and will always be secured on a battlefield by a warrior who agreed ahead of time to give his life, if necessary. It is one of history's great mysteries that an American citizen would give up his individual freedoms and his life to expand the freedoms of citizens he doesn't know. Yet that mystery binds us all together.

The best tradition to bring unity in our great nation is to

stand with right hand over your heart and sing the anthem that honors every race, creed and color of patriot who gave his life. These patriots are the reason we can answer the anthems great question with a resounding "Yes!"

"Oh say does that Star-Spangled Banner yet wave over the land of the free and the home of the brave?"

Let us not be the last generation to answer the Anthem's great question with "Yes!"

Gatti: Firemen's Legislator of the Year

BOSSIERCITY — Sen. Ryan Gatti has been named Louisiana Firefighters Legislator of the Year for 2018.

He was recognized for his continuous contributions to firefighters across the state at the organization's 73rd Annual Professional Fire Fighters Association of Louisiana's Convention on Feb. 9, 2019.

"Sen. Gatti takes a no-nonsense approach in representing his constituents as well as all first responders throughout the State of Louisiana," firefighters state president, Chad Major, said. "He listens intently to our concerns, and although he is a very intelligent person, he allows good common sense to prevail. He is not only a compassionate man of God, but also a fighter for firefighters. It is our honor to recognize him for his efforts and it is our privilege to call him friend and brother!"

Matt Lauterbach, president of the Bossier City Firefighters, said, "The Bossier City Firefighters are truly honored that our local senator is the recipient of this prestigious award and to have been a part of the ceremony. Sen. Gatti has not stopped carrying our flag since the day he



FIREFIGHTERS LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR — Sen. Ryan Gatti was honored by firefighters across Louisiana as their top legislator.

first arrived in Baton Rouge. His strong Christian values reflect those of our membership and we are proud to have Sen. Gatti honored by our collective brothers and sisters throughout our great state."

Throughout his tenure as

state senator, Sen. Gatti has supported firefighters around the state by sponsoring legislation benefitting first responders. In the 2016 Regular Legislative Session, Sen. Gatti's Act 332 lessened the penalties for first responders who engage in political ac-

tivities, requiring a suspension rather than termination on a first offense. Sen. Gatti went to bat for first responders again in 2017, authoring Act 287 to expand workers' compensation benefits for firefighters to include any type of cancer with a work-related origin.

Sen. Gatti also pushed measures to increase supplemental pay for certain eligible first responders. However, that effort has yet to make it through the legislative process.

"I am incredibly honored to receive this award," Sen. Gatti said. "It is not only my job, but my privilege, to assist our first responders in whatever way possible. These men and women stand on the front lines of disaster in our state. They deserve our utmost respect and support."

Sen. Gatti continued his support for firefighters in the 2019 Regular Legislative Session by sponsoring legislation to assist first responders dealing with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Sen. Gatti said the bill he filed will allow first responders to file a PTSD-related claim with workers compensation as an occupational disease.



Sen. Ryan Gatti with his legislative aide Camyrn Banks

Bossier Businessman Banned from Using Cross in His Ad

Senator Sued to Protect Christian Symbols

Christian Gym Paid For Ad on Field, Only to Have It Pulled by System

BENTON — Sen. Ryan Gatti wasn't looking for controversy, but when Christ Fit Gym owner Bill Weatherall called him last September, Sen. Gatti knew he had to get involved in controversy in order to protect the religious liberty of students in Bossier Parish schools and around the country.

Christ Fit Gym is a non-profit gym which use physical fitness as a means to minister to people. For years it has supported Benton High School and advertised during football games. Last year, the gym paid the Benton High booster club \$3,500 for advertising space in the end zone during high school football games.

At the same time, the Bossier Parish School System was in negotiations with Americans United for Separation of Church and State to settle a suit the left wing organization had filed alleging that Bossier schools promote Christianity.

When the liberal group found out about the ad, which included the name Christ Fit Gym, a cross, and a Bible verse, it complained to legal counsel for the school board.

As result, legal counsel told the school system to remove the ad, even though Bill Weatherall and Christ Fit Gym had a legally-binding contract for the space and had paid the \$3,500.

When Weatherall called Sen. Gatti, who is also an attorney, Gatti went into action immediately. He filed a restraining order in the 26th District Court asking the judge to prevent the



A **RESTRAINING ORDER** filed by Sen. Ryan Gatti resulted in the ad for Christ Fit Gym being restored to the Benton High School football field at the beginning of last season.

school system for removing the ad.

At the school, two students had been told to remove the design from the field, but they refused, saying

they would not remove Christian symbols from the field.

District Judge XXX XX signed the order, but the school had already

removed the ad from the field.

Undeterred, Sen. Gatti demanded that the field be repainted and the ad returned.

Meanwhile, the Bossier Parish School Board, which had not yet had a chance to meet on the controversy, called a special meeting. They went into executive session, since the matter involved litigation.

After a long meeting, the board emerged and announced that they unanimously voted to have the Christ Fit Gym ad restored to the football field, just as it had been before the outside group got involved.

It was a huge victory for Bill Weatherall, the courageous students who refused to remove the ad, the students in Bossier schools, and Sen. Gatti, who provided his legal services free of charge!

All during the 2018 football season, the name Christ Fit Gym, the cross, and 1 Timothy 4:8 stayed in place in the end zone of the Benton High Tigers football field.

Sen. Gatti Visited Every School in District 36

Continued from Page 2

A paragraph on Ryan's parents...

Mission Work

Sen. Gatti and the entire family have been very active in mission work especially in Haiti, which they visit every year.

During the 2015 campaign, Ryan had to make an important and very telling decision — between his faith and his political aspirations. The final days of a campaign are the most intense, and candidates traditionally work around the clock the last two weeks to do everything they can to get



SEN. RYAN GATTI speaking to students in the library at Lakeside Jr.-Sr. High School.

their voters to the polls.

However, Ryan had a long-planned mission trip scheduled for the week of the election. He had to choose between the obligation he had assumed to complete the mission trip or canceling the trip and campaigning. After prayerful deliberation, he decided to fulfill his mission obligation. When the polls closed, he was in Haiti ministering to the needy. Nevertheless, in his absence, the voters elected him State Senator for Bossier, Webster, Bienville, and Claiborne parishes!

As a state senator, Ryan Gatti keeps a very busy schedule serving the people of Northwest Louisiana, but one of the things he always makes time to do is continue to visit the schools in the district's four parishes and continue his mission trips to Haiti.

Bossier Students Take Stand with Protect Prayer

BOSSIER CITY — A lawsuit intended to silence religion in Bossier Parish schools is doing just the opposite.

Students are using this as an opportunity to speak loud and clear about their religious freedom in school.

“The lawsuit pushed us to this point, but standing up for our faith is something we are called to do, with or without a lawsuit,” Katherine Gatti, a senior at Airline High School, said.

Americans United for Separation of Church and State filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court earlier this month, alleging widespread use of prayer on school property and during school events, in classrooms at all levels, at sporting events, at graduation ceremonies, during awards assemblies and at student government meetings. It also alleges that school officials openly proselytize students in Christianity.

Bossier Schools has since issued a formal statement, saying they will update policies and require training for all school employees.

“It’s an incredible opportunity for students from all over, not just our community here in Bossier

Parish, but for students in northwest Louisiana to come together and take a stand for what they believe in,” Cole Billiot, a senior at Parkway High School, said.

Students are leading prayer rallies to bring students of all denominations together as a way to educate them on their rights in school and to equip them with the tools to exercise those rights.

Airline senior Katherine Gatti The Protect Prayer movement didn't happen overnight, though. It has been a huge focus in Gatti's prayer life.

“I was scared to step out and do anything about it because I didn't want to be alone,” she said. “This is something that God has been calling me to do for a very long time. It just took this recent lawsuit and the one in Webster [Parish] to make me realize that.”

She reached out to those around her and formed a leadership team. Now, more than 40 students from Bossier and Webster, both high school and middle school age, are standing up for what they believe in.

The first prayer rally, held Feb. 22, brought hundreds of students

together from Bossier and Webster Parish. Billiot said it was “an incredible blessing” to have so many believers under one roof.

“When you are under fire for whatever you believe in, no matter what it is, we have the right to stand and oppose that in a fair and just way,” he said. “I think that is something all of our peers can get out of this, whether they are a Christian or not. We have the ability to stand for what we believe in and we have the freedom to assemble behind that.”

Gatti agreed, adding that she hopes more students will find their voice and speak out.

“Usually when these things come up, our politicians and parents voices are louder than ours. We want our voices to be heard because it really affects us in our every day lives,” she said. “Our teachers are scared and our schools are scared, but it's time for students to live in the freedom that we have under the law and, more importantly, the freedom we have under Christ. Even if the lawsuit goes away, what we're doing here still has a purpose.”

Above all else, they don't want

any student of any denomination to feel like they are alone.

“When they take their faith seriously, it doesn't mean they have to be an outcast,” Gatti said. “We hope they know they are not alone. We are a community of believers that should come together and encourage others to live out their faith, whatever that may be.”

“This lawsuit may limit our teachers and it may limit our schools and it may change the way that things happen in this area, but we want students to be encouraged and grow stronger in their relationship with Christ. Living out your faith boldly and confidently is what we're called to do.”

Gatti continued, “We're paving the way for students years from now to stand for prayer. We don't want them to back down. We want people to stand up. Our purpose is not to win a lawsuit, but to unite as Christians and stand strong in our faith.”

For more information on the Protect Prayer movement, visit www.protectprayer.com or visit the Protect Prayer Facebook page.

— By Amanda Simmons, Bossier Press

Sen. Gatti Donates State Salary

Legislative Salary Went to Worthy Causes in Dist. 36 Past Three Years

BOSSIER CITY — When he took office in 2016, Sen. Ryan E. Gatti decided to use his legislative salary to help fund worthy causes in Bossier, Webster, Claiborne, and Bienville parishes.

Now, as he nears completion of his four-year term, Sen. Gatti has reported on the donations made:

— 2016 —

In 2016, Sen. Gatti donated his entire legislative salary of \$16,800 to the Lake Bistineau Foundation.

The foundation is composed of property owners around the lake. It works to restore Lake Bistineau, which has been fighting the aquatic water plant, giant salvinia.

Foundation president Pete Camp, said “Sen. Gatti promised he would make Bistineau a priority and he has lived up to that. This donation will help our group move forward with several projects. We appreciate this generous gift and the light it shines on the needs of our lake.”

— 2017 —

In 2017, Sen. Gatti divided his legislative salary equally among three groups as follows:

- Ringgold Food Pantry, \$5,000

The Ringgold Food Pantry is a branch of the Food Pantry of Northwest Louisiana, whose mission is to be the primary resource for fighting hunger in Northwest Louisiana. It aims to ultimately end hunger in the area by maintaining a consolidated network of effective food collection and dis-



Sen. Ryan Gatti presented a check for \$16,800 to Geaux 4 Kids last year.

tribution which will provide universal access to food for the needy in our communities.

- St. Jude Children’s Hospital, \$5,000

St. Jude Children’s Hospital, founded by the late entertainer Danny Thomas, is one of the world’s premier centers for the research and treatment of pediatric cancer and other catastrophic childhood diseases. The Minden St. Jude auction began in the 1970’s and has raised more than \$4 million. Last year’s event raised \$1.5 million. Minden raises more per capital than any city in the United States — roughly \$40 a person.

- Christ Fit Gym, \$5,000

Christ Fit Gym is a non-profit Christian gym organized and operated on Christian principles. Christ Fit Gym’s mission is 1 Timothy

4:8, “for physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.” Christ Fit Gym will strengthen you physically but more importantly will help strengthen you spiritually. Christ Fit Gym has weekly Bible Devotions and goes overseas twice a year to help spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

— 2018 —

In 2018, Sen. Gatti donated his legislative salary of \$16,400 to Geaux 4 Kids and Geaux Bags.

Geaux 4 Kids helps children from newborns to 18 who are entering the state’s foster care system.

— 2019 —

Sen. Gatti said he will donate his salary for 2019 by early next year.

Sen. Gatti Bill Teaches How To Act during Traffic Stops

MINDEN — Sen. Ryan Gatti, District 36, has pre-filed a senate bill that would make it law for driver’s education instructors to teach appropriate behavior when stopped by a law enforcement officer.

He said this provision in driver’s ed instruction is important because driver’s safety, especially young driver’s safety, is important for all.

“The average person will get pulled over only a few times in their driving career,” he said. “This training will help our young drivers.”

Senate Bill 17 would dictate that the Depts. of Public Safety and Corrections “provide instruction relative to trailer safety, to the economic effects of littering and to appropriate driver conduct when stopped by a law enforcement officer.”

It goes on to say oversight of these rules would be conducted by the House and Senate Committees on transportation, highways and public works, in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

The bill is the brainchild of former NFL player and Haynesville native Demetric Evans, who called Gatti with the idea.

“After the Dallas shootings, he began to brainstorm about this issue and had the idea of adding a one to two hour component to the Louisiana Drivers Education classes focusing on driver courtesy during a traffic stop,” Gatti said. “We envision part of the course to be taught by an officer in person or online. Hopefully, we can make the traffic stop safer for all involved. We have asked for input from law enforcement and it has been positive thus far.

“I’ll be honest,” he continued. “As my friend was talking to me about the idea on the phone, I was driving, and you guessed it, I got pulled over.”

Gatti gave a few suggestions to integrate into the course:

Upon being pulled over, turn off music, get your driver’s license and proof of insurance ready for the officer before he approaches the window and asks for it.

Roll down your window prior to being asked by the officer.

Place your hands on the steering wheel in clear view of the officer: in a “9/3 o’clock” position.

Make eye contact with the officer when he or she is speaking to you and when speaking to him or her. (Do not look straight ahead or at a guest in the vehicle while being addressed or addressing the officer.)

“This is common sense legislation that will allow parents and law enforcement to breathe easier,” Gatti said.

“If we can remove anxiety from the traffic stop, then that is good for everyone.”

— Minden Press-Herald

Key Legislation Authored by Sen. Gatti 2016-2019

Continued from Page 8

events for schools.

2017 Regular Session

SB17/Act 28 - TRAFFIC - Provides driver education to include instruction on appropriate driver conduct when stopped by a law enforcement officer.

SB47 - TAXATION - Reduces income tax rate on oil and gas bonus payments and royalty payments to zero.

SB63/Act 287 - EMPLOYMENT - Provides cancer as an occupational disease or infirmity connected with the duties of a firefighter.

SB64/Act 184 - ANIMALS - Provides animal shelter operating procedures and training requirements and authorizes animal shelters to post pictures of animals on social media.

HB220 - SALES TAX - Reduces the state sales and use tax rate.

2018 Regular Session

SB21/Act 217 - ROADS - Designates a portion of I-20 Bossier Parish as the “Louisiana State Trooper Huey P. Grace Memorial Highway”.

SB73/Act 645 - CRIME - Provides relative to Fetal Organ Whistleblower Account.

SB78 - CRIME - Creates crime of battery of a utility service employee.

SB79 - CRIME - Increase penalties for teachers who engage in sexual relationships with students.

SB129/Act 649 - FAMILY - Provides relative to foster care children in high school.

SB140 - TUITION - Provides active duty military members, qualified veterans, or the spouses and dependent children of certain military

members with an education benefit.

SB141 - TAXES - Provides a rebate for TOPS recipients who complete a B.A. degree in three years.

SB211/Act 237 - CHILDREN - Provides relative to parental drug testing before allowing a foster child to return to the home.

SB212/Act 365 - ROADS - Authorizes DOTD to lease equipment.

SB262 - GOVERNOR - Provides relative to powers of the governor during times of emergency.

SB299 - COMMERCE - Provides that if one business gets an advantage from government, all businesses in the state receive the same advantage.

SB458/Act 573 - CRIME - Prohibits medical furlough to any offender guilty of 1st degree murder.

SB505 SCHOOLS - Allows peace officers, with approval of the principal, to patrol schools.

SB512/Act 673 - SCHOOLS - Allows school employees to participate in student-initiated prayer.

2019 Regular Session

SB107/Act 122 - PUBLIC EMPLOYEES - Adds post traumatic stress disorder to the list of injuries which are compensable for injured public employees.

SB138/Act 408 - CRIME - Provides relative to the definition of “serious bodily injury”.

SB139 - EMPLOYMENT - Prohibits workplace bullying and harassment.

SB206 - LICENSES - Provides relative to seizure of driver’s license under certain circumstances.

SB207 - CRIME - Provides fel-

ony criminal penalties for violating any law governing the expenditure of funds in the Transportation Trust Fund.

SCR147 - COMMENDATIONS - Commends First Lt. John Stillmon Willis Jr. upon the celebration of his 100th birthday.

SR37 - LEGISLATIVE AGENCIES - Requests Louisiana Law Institute to study the feasibility of authorizing “series” limited liability companies in Louisiana.

SR55 - COMMENDATIONS - Commends Carroll Breaux, mayor of the city of Springhill, for 28 years of dedicated public service on the occasion of his retirement.

SR90 - COMMENDATIONS - Commends R&V Works and its owners, Robert and Vicki Myers, for their many years in business as a Louisiana manufacturer.

SR180 - COMMENDATIONS - Commends Kim Howell on being named School Librarian of the Year by the Louisiana Association of School Librarians.

SR209 - COMMENDATIONS - Commends Benton Middle School on becoming the national champions in the 2019 National Archery in Schools Program U.S. Eastern National Tournament.

SR217 - COMMENDATIONS - Commends retired Air Force Col. Steve dePyssler on his 100th birthday.

SR243 - COMMENDATIONS - Commends C.C. “Cat” Cox for his many years of public service and designates January 9 as C.C. “Cat” Cox Day every year in North Webster Parish



Demetric Evans, former NFL player and Haynesville native called Sen. Ryan Gatti with an idea to help motorists and police.



Real Leadership at State Capitol

Keep Sen. Ryan Gatti Fighting for Us at Capitol

Volunteer & Get Yard Signs

Volunteer to help or get a yard sign by calling (318) 752-1012

Facebook

Visit and "Like" Ryan's Facebook page: Senator Ryan Gatti
www.facebook.com/senatorryangatti/

Website

Visit <https://www.senatorryangatti.com/> where you will find more information.

To Reach Ryan

Reach Sen. Ryan Gatti directly at:

- Email: robin@ryangatti.com
- For campaign: (318) 752-1012
- For legislative business: (318) 746-0861
- Mail: 2123 Shed Rd., Bossier City, LA 71111

Vote on Saturday, Oct. 12, 2019

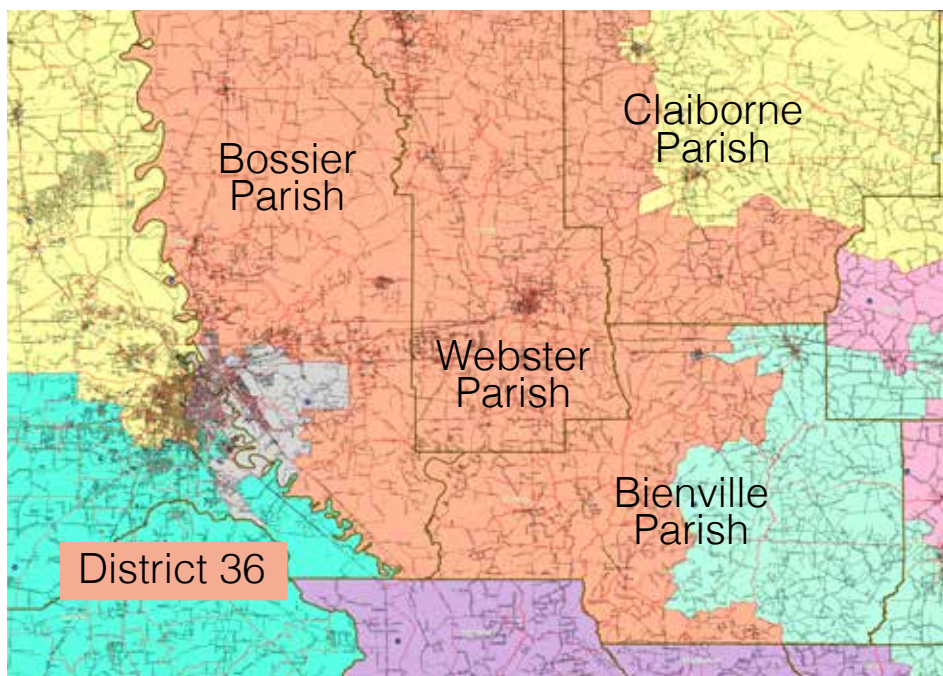
Early Voting is Sept. 29 to Oct. 5

Vote Ryan Gatti

State Senator - District 36

Paid for by Ryan Gatti Campaign Committee

Senate District 36



Sen. Gatti Held 50 Town Halls In All Four Parishes of Dist. 36



Scenes from some of Sen. Ryan Gatti's 50 town hall meetings across District 36

Continued from Page 1

answer questions about their voting record or the latest attack against them in the media.

However, Sen. Gatti sees town hall meetings differently from most politicians. "It's really a wonderful opportunity for me to renew old friendships and make new friends. I really listen to people's concerns. My job is to go to Baton Rouge and represent the values of the good people of our beautiful part of the state. I don't consider myself a free agent to vote however I choose. I'm there to faithfully represent our people's views."

Sen. Gatti said, "I really learn a lot from our town hall meetings. It's an exchange of information and ideas —

going both ways."

The senator said the first job of every elected official is to support the federal and state constitutions and to vote in accord with his platform and the promises he made when he ran. "That's really a contract with the people," he said. "After that, the people's views should be faithfully respected and reflected at the State Capitol."

"Representing our district is relatively easy because our citizens believe in the Constitution and traditional values. The platform I ran on is the same as what they believe. But there is a whole range of issues that reasonable men and women can disagree on, and that's where town hall meetings can be so valuable."

Yes, Ryan!

You Can Count on Me!

Mail to Ryan Gatti Campaign Committee, 2123 Shed Rd., Bossier City, LA 71111

Please attach a note or a letter telling me your views on the issues that most concern you.

Dear Ryan, I want to help as follows:

- Yard sign Volunteer
- Contribute _____ to "Ryan Gatti Campaign Committee"

Name _____

Address _____

City State Zip Code _____

Email Address _____

Phone Number _____

Need a Ride for Early Voting
Sat., Sept. 29-Sat., Oct. 5, 2019
or Election Day?
Saturday, Oct. 12, 2019
Call 318-752-1012