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JOHN GEORGES RISES AS NEW BRAND OF LEADER IN LOUISIANA GOVERNOR'S RACE

John Georges, a Republican, has emerged as a major candidate in the Louisiana Governor's race.

A successful business leader, Georges is the odds on favorite to be in the November runoff. Governor Kathleen Blanco and former U.S. Senator John Breaux both decided not to enter the race. Georges leads the other remaining candidates with over \$5.6 million of his own money deposited in his campaign account and plans to raise an additional \$5 million from supporters before qualifying on Sept 6.

A 46-year-old New Orleans-born businessman, Georges built a business empire in Louisiana in food, oil and gas, maritime, entertainment and real estate. In the post Katrina era, Louisiana needs new leadership. Georges offers the talent of a business leader who has achieved the real life successes necessary to move the state forward.

A new brand of leader, Georges comes from a business and not political background and presents non-partisan and non-political solutions to the governmental, educational and economic development problems that have held Louisiana back for generations. Georges' companies, led by Imperial Trading Company of New Orleans, grossed more than one half a billion in annual sales in 2006 and does business with thousands of small businesses in Louisiana.

Georges is a Greek-American whose father, Dennis, a native of Peloponnesus, fought in the Greek resistance during World War II, survived capture by the Communists during Greece's civil war and then went to the Korean War as a member of the Royal Hellenic Air Force.

Following in his father's footsteps, John Georges was president of the Greek community in New Orleans and led the rebuilding of the Holy Trinity Church in New Orleans after it was heavily damaged by Hurricane Katrina in late August 2005. Georges organized the Patriarchal visit of Bartholomew I to New Orleans in January 2006. He was

also responsible for the distribution of \$5 million in relief funds for the thousands of Greek families whose homes were destroyed by the hurricane.

A graduate of Tulane University's Freeman Business School, Georges has been active in national and international politics as well as a major supporter of Greek-American causes in the United States. He is an Archon and a member of Leadership 100. "The Greeks in Louisiana have been leaders in education, medicine, law and the maritime industry," said Georges. "I stand on the shoulders of all those who came before me and know that it's a great honor to be the first Greek-American candidate for Governor of Louisiana."

Of the governor's race, Georges says, "Louisiana is desperately in need of new visionary leadership and is vital to the rest of the nation because of our oil and gas, fishing, agriculture and other natural resources. Louisiana is especially important to the world's shipping interests due to our ports and the Mississippi River. While there is a budget surplus in Louisiana, over 100,000 of our citizens are waiting for the state to rebuild our schools and hospitals, and vital infrastructure." Georges said he plans to speed up the recovery process and attract new investments in Louisiana.

"I am overwhelmed by the support of Greek-Americans around the United States both for the recovery of Louisiana and their interest in my candidacy as Governor," he said. Georges along with his wife, Dathel, and three children Alexandra, Liza and Nike, plan to visit Patriarch Bartholomew this summer in Turkey. The Georges campaign can be reached online at GEORGESFORGOVERNOR.COM