



Central Louisiana Regional Port

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CENTRAL LA REGIONAL PORT'S TRAGIC LOSS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - (Alexandria, LA)

June 1, 2020 - It is with great sadness to announce the tragic death of the Port's Executive Director, Mr. Blake Cooper. His career as Executive Director of the Central Louisiana Regional Port began January 2015. During his 5 years of employment, his vision in growing the footprint of the Port was tremendously successful.

"His enthusiasm, leadership, and commitment to the Port, the Board of Commissioners and staff will forever be remembered," stated Board President Terry Spruill. "Blake's accomplishments has placed the Port on a strong financial ground. Additionally, his hard work has secured several Army JRTC rotations utilizing the port's dock which provided additional revenue to the Port."

Commissioner Gil McKee stated, "We lost an outstanding citizen, community advocate and leader for Central Louisiana and beyond in this tragic accident. Blake showed knowledge, wisdom and discernment in all he did throughout his career. As a group, the Port was blessed to have had his guidance and leadership over these years."

Spruill continued, "Be assured, the Board of Commissioners is dedicated to making sure all day-to-day operations at the Port are handled as normal as possible. As president, I will provide daily operational support during this transition. The Central Louisiana Regional Port's tenants and operation of the Port are of highest priority."

Communication will continue to be made through the port's central office at 318-473-1848 or info@clrport.com.

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About the Central Louisiana Regional Port (CLRP):

Originally created in 1988, the Central Louisiana Regional Port is located off US I-49 at mile 90 on the Red River. The Port provides access to Union Pacific and KCS Railroads, Interstate 49, U.S. Highways 71, 165, 167 and Louisiana Highways 1 and 28. Alexandria International Airport is located approximately 5 miles away. Primary cargoes include inbound and outbound fertilizer, military cargo, aggregates, citric acid, equipment, bio- carbon and fuels. During the 2015 Regular Legislative Session, the Port was made a parish-wide public entity and renamed as the Central Louisiana Regional Port. The CLRP Commission is comprised of individuals appointed by the City of Alexandria, RPPJ, City of Pineville, and the Town of Boyce.