

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
State of Louisiana  
Governor  
Kathleen Babineaux Blanco

Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** America's WETLAND, a vast landscape extending along Louisiana's coast and home to a unique and intricate ecosystem, is disappearing at a rate of 25 square miles per year; and
- WHEREAS,** America's WETLAND is an area of world ecological significance and of strategic importance to our national economy and energy security, and is at great risk; and
- WHEREAS,** the state has lost 2,100 square miles of land since the 1930's and is expected to lose another 500 square miles over the next 50 years if nothing is done to save it; and
- WHEREAS,** America's WETLAND is the wintering habitat for millions of waterfowl and migratory birds whose habitat is lost as the wetlands disappear, and the nation relies on Louisiana's working wetlands to provide protection for oil and gas pipelines that serve as a major artery for delivering more than 25 percent of the nation's energy; and
- WHEREAS,** Louisiana's proposed Comprehensive Coastal Protection and Restoration Master Plan in an integral component in our work to preserve, protect and restore America's WETLAND; and
- WHEREAS,** World Wetlands Day is celebrated around the world on February 2<sup>nd</sup> of each year by government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and groups of citizens in our global community.

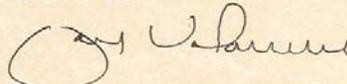
**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Kathleen Babineaux Blanco, Governor of the State of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2007, as

**AMERICA'S WETLAND DAY**

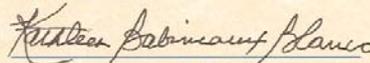
in the State of Louisiana, and urge all of our citizens to learn more about how comprehensive coastal protection includes both flood control and wetland restoration and to support efforts to raise awareness about the critical need for Louisiana to develop a sustainable coast.



Attest By  
The Governor

  
Secretary of State

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set  
my hand officially and caused to be affixed the  
Great Seal of the State of Louisiana, at the  
Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this  
the 30th day of January  
A.D., 2007*

  
Governor of Louisiana