

## Congressional Update | Fleming and Vitter Speak



Sean Green/Press-Tribune

**U.S. Representative John Fleming, flanked by 26th Judicial District Attorney J. Schuyler Marvin and U.S. Senator David Vitter, speaks at the Congressional Update and Luncheon held at the Bossier Holiday Inn Monday. Fleming, Vitter and Louisiana Attorney General James Caldwell spoke to a crowd about their efforts on behalf of northwest Louisiana.**

# Fleming and Vitter update northwest Louisiana about goings on in Washington

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Local community members and business leaders heard Monday about what is going on in Washington from U.S. Senator David Vitter and Representative John Fleming at congressional update and luncheon.

J. Schuyler Marvin, district attorney for the 26th Judicial District, along with the North Shreveport Business Association and Roberts and Murphy, Inc. sponsored the luncheon.

"I think it's important to let the public know what we do and what's going on in Washington and Baton Rouge. We believe in our hearts what it is everyone's doing we can all work better together," said Marvin.

The luncheon began with Vitter taking the podium and commending Shreveport-Bossier's law enforcement for their cooperation and department initiatives.

"I don't think at any time before has the entire law enforcement community of the region been working together so closely and cooperatively. And I think that spells great success for this part of the state."

His attention then turned to

last week's announcement that Barksdale Air Force Base would be the home to the USAF's Global Strike Command.

"It is great news for us and Barksdale. It means that the Air Force, Pentagon and country recognizes Barksdale for the great asset that it is in terms of defending our nation," said Vitter.



**Vitter**

Vitter noted the mission is now to retain and build up cyber activities in hopes of the Air Force naming Barksdale as the home to the 24th Air Force, which controls cyber defense aspects.

"We're all hoping we can get both, but if not, we're certainly working towards retaining as many cyber assets and operations here at Barksdale and the surrounding community as possible."

Vitter also said he would be remiss if he attending a meeting in north Louisiana and did not mention I49 North.

"That continues to be my number one transportation priority within the state. We'll have a big opportunity in the next highway bill to get a major set of improvements to I49 through that bill that could be

passed through Congress as early as next year," said Vitter.

Then it was Fleming's turn to speak and he began by pulling out his voting card and said the card had voted against \$5 trillion worth of federal spending.

"The federal government has a responsibility to spend your tax payer money but it needs to be a steward of that money. It is your money, not Washington's money," said Fleming.

Fleming said he has spent his time in the house working with Vitter to co-author the no-cost stimulus bill. This bill allowed more exploration, drilling and gives a percentage of that to go towards projects that would help the economy while creating jobs.

He also noted that he supported the Military Pay Raise Act, Secret Ballot Protection Act — keeps employees' ballots voting for or against unionization secret — and said the House Republicans are working on a 2010 budget that is aimed at balancing the national budget by 2019.

Fleming explained his current goal in congress is to help the ailing economy, saying, "First and foremost is to get our economy back to capitalism, we've made a severe swerve left towards socialism and unfortunately because liberals

control the two governing branches of government today, all we can do is get our message out to the people."

His other main issue is healthcare reform.

"It's one of the reasons I came to congress. We want it to be done properly. We don't want to end up with the European style system where we deal with rationing and expanding budgets. We need to make it work in the marketplace to improve services and lower cost," said Fleming.

Fleming also touched on the good news delivered to Barksdale by saying, "Global strike is a tremendous addition. For one thing it's going to allow us to retain a three-star general — because the 8th air force will go down to two star command — it's going to add temporary jobs immediately and 1,000 jobs eventually. It's been a pleasure to be involved in this."

He noted that the good news would also spread to the area's economy with construction for new infrastructure.

"We're going to need an I220 overpass to route traffic to the base, more buildings on the base and across from I20 and upgraded weapons storage. There's going to be business for locals."

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