

Billy Nungesser Bio

Billy Nungesser serves as Parish President in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, winning reelection with 71% of the vote in October 2010. Billy serves with a passion for helping people, representing Plaquemines residents, and accomplishing goals.

As CNN put it, Billy grew up in the holy trinity of Louisiana...Seafood, Oil, and Politics. Billy Nungesser's father served as Chief of Staff for Louisiana Governor Dave Treen and served as Chair of the Louisiana Republican Party. He owned a seafood packing company that eventually led to an offshore catering business.

Billy has been a man of ideas and action long before being elected Parish President. He has a distinguished resume of service that goes back to 1983 when Governor David Treen appointed him to the Lake Pontchartrain & Maurepas Study Commission. In 1985, he served on



the levee board and was awarded Crimestopper's "Citizen of the Year" award. In 1986, he was appointed by President Ronald Reagan to the Republican Presidential Task Force. He also served on the Governor's Advisory Board to the International Special Olympics. In 2004, as Chairman of the Plaquemines Parish United Way, Billy led a record breaking fund-raising campaign. The Nungesser team raised more than \$237,000.00 for the people of this parish. Billy subsequently accepted the annual Leipzig Award for outstanding achievement. In 2004 and 2005, Billy worked diligently with other key leaders in Plaquemines Parish to form the Plaquemines Association of Business and Industry. He served on the Board of Directors throughout the organization's formative years and remains involved as a charter member.

While working in the offshore catering business, Billy discovered an alternative use for metal ship containers. In 1991, Billy formed General Marine Leasing Company, delivering the first-of-its-kind business modified and outfitted containers that were specially improved for use as living quarters for offshore workers. Under his leadership, the company grew to employ more than 200 local workers and reached \$20 million dollars in sales becoming the largest provider of portable buildings in the Gulf of Mexico.

Billy chose Pointe Celeste to build his home, where he developed a ranch to raise elk and cattle. Adjacent to his Elkland Ranch, he founded Pointe Celeste Therapeutic Riding Center. The center helps physically and mentally challenged individuals of all ages by offering horseback riding at no charge and bringing a therapeutic link that might have gone undiscovered if it were not for this connection. Billy has always believed in giving back to the community.

Sixteen months after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita devastated Plaquemines Parish, Billy Nungesser took office in January 2007 following a successful election bid. As Parish President he has worked closely with local, state and federal officials, receiving record amounts of capital

outlay money as well as record amounts of state and federal grant monies for much needed infrastructure projects within the parish.

When he took office President Nungesser found that 400 Project Worksheets had been authorized by FEMA for a total value of \$109 million dollars. He knew right away that this did not represent nor reflect the scope of damage Plaquemines Parish had sustained as a result of these two hurricanes. Billy immediately began working with FEMA and the Corps of Engineers and to date successfully worked in Washington with FEMA and the Corps of Engineers to increase that number to 500 Projects Worksheets, obligated and approved at 100% - for a total of \$361,235,734.68.

In rebuilding, Billy made sure the new parish buildings were built to new standards to withstand future floods and hurricanes. Hard work and persistence have resulted in new community centers, fire stations, and 10 new fire trucks throughout the Parish of Plaquemines along with numerous other projects and improvements. Appeals in Washington D.C. resulted in project increases and improvements such as authorizing construction of 4 new pumping stations which had previously been scheduled for repairs only and the authorization to rebuild the Port Eads Marina for \$8-9 million dollars.

Three years and four months into his term as Parish President, the Deepwater Horizon rig exploded off the coast of Plaquemines. Billy lit a fire under the federal government, Coast Guard and BP, demanding a better response. The New York Times even went as far as to say Billy was quote, "perhaps the hardest-working man in Louisiana these days." With daily television and newspaper appearances Billy quickly became the face of the oil spill, standing up and relentlessly fighting for the fishermen and businesses of Plaquemines Parish and Coastal Louisiana.

President Nungesser is determined to rebuild and restore Plaquemines Parish, not only to where she once was, but better than ever before. He believes it is only fitting that the "Gateway to America" should be an economic and residential hub of the State and that the Sportsman's Paradise State is more than adequately represented by the parish known as the "Fishing Capital of the World." With the help of the good people of Plaquemines Parish he will accomplish that task.