

# STARS & STRIPES

A Quarterly Publication of First American Bank

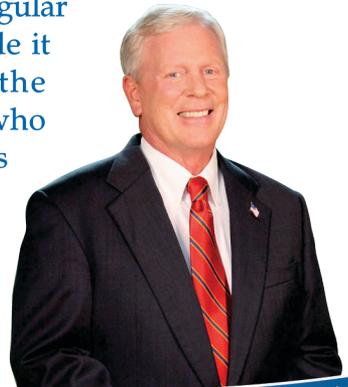
March 2017

## *On Deck* with Jim Henderson

There are many decisions the Saints make that come as a surprise to me. But one that didn't, was the decision not to hold training camp at the Greenbrier Resort in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, for a fourth straight summer.

Early last season, I was tipped by a member of the equipment staff that they had been told to bring all the equipment and weights back to New Orleans at the conclusion of last summer's camp instead of leaving the bulkiest and heaviest stuff at the Greenbrier rather than transport it, indicating it wouldn't be needed there again.

It was a decision that few could argue with. Training in West Virginia was expensive, inconvenient, and without a tangible benefit to the team in the regular season. The temperate climate was a welcome relief from the oppressive deep south heat in July and August, but it didn't seem to reduce injuries in either the pre-season or early in the regular season. And three 7 and 9 records made it hard to defend the team against the ammunition of conspiracy theorists who contended the luxurious surroundings made the team soft rather than hardened by a more stringent environment.



*continued on page 2*

Despite the return to triple-digit heat indexes, I think the vast majority of the media covering the team welcomes the change of locale. None of us stayed at the resort. In fact, we were banned by the organization from the luxurious hotel on the property that housed the team. Instead we stayed for upwards of a month in private homes or single-star hotels. I won't miss a fourth straight summer at ours nor the women who sometimes chewed tobacco while servicing our rooms.

A return to the team facility in Metairie will mark a return to morning workouts outside under a scorching sun, though an air-conditioned indoor facility is available for a needed break or the inevitable thunderstorms. In one of the last training camps there before going to West Virginia I passed out from dehydration on the sideline for the only time in my life, prompting the saints to move subsequent practices inside.

I know I will miss the West Virginia mornings when a fleece might be needed on the sideline as soon as I walk out of the media room in Metairie and the rivulet of perspiration immediately heads down my spine to collect as a small pond in my underwear.

West Virginia may have been touted as "almost heaven" by John Denver and no one has called Airline Drive that with the possible exception of Jimmy Swaggart. But it's home and despite its challenges, there is no place like home...especially ours.

God Bless,  
*Jim Henderson*



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In observance of the upcoming holidays, all offices will be closed on:

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Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup>  
Close at Noon

*Independence Day*  
Tuesday, July 4<sup>th</sup>

*Memorial Day*  
Monday, May 29<sup>th</sup>

*Labor Day*  
Monday, September 4<sup>th</sup>

## ***Congratulations*** to the winners of the **Quarterly *Stars & Stripes* Drawing!**



Mary Michel of Saint Amant  
Janel Wheeler of Laplace  
Nola Matherne of Thibodaux



Each won a \$50 Visa Gift Card by entering last issue's contest drawing.

### **Thank you for reading this publication of *Stars & Stripes*!**

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Please return by April 30, 2017 to be eligible for this drawing.  
Winners will be announced in the next quarterly publication of Stars and Stripes.