

News Release FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

East Baton Rouge Council on Aging
5790 Florida Blvd.
Baton Rouge, La 70806
www.ebrcoa.org



Contact: Angell Jackson
Phone: 225-923-8000 Ext. 253
Email: ajackson@ebrcoa.org

Congressman Garret Graves Joins East Baton Rouge Council on Aging's Meals on Wheels For Deliveries

BATON ROUGE, Louisiana (08/08/2019) – The East Baton Rouge Council on Aging is excited to announce that on Wednesday, August 14, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. Congressman Garret Graves will deliver Meals on Wheels to homebound seniors in East Baton Rouge Parish, to highlight the vital importance of protecting and increasing federal funding for programs, such as the Older American Act (OAA).

EBRCOA's Meals on Wheels programs delivers 435,000 meals to seniors across East Baton Rouge Parish and is the lifeline that enables healthier living, quality of life and independence. Meals on Wheels delivers weekly and includes a meal for 7 days as well as milk, bread, snacks, and fresh fruit. Congressman Graves' meal delivery is part of a broader effort led by Meals on Wheels of America to safeguard critical federal funding upon which senior nutrition programs across the state and the broader senior services network rely.

"In 2018, we eliminated the Meals on Wheels waiting list in East Baton Rouge Parish. This program is so much more than dropping off food! It also serves as a social visit or wellness check. Often, these seniors do not see anyone or have any visitors other than EBRCOA Meal on Wheels deliverers. We become their connection to the outside world," said Tasha Clark-Amar, Chief Executive Officer of EBRCOA.

Delivering daily meals create opportunities to combat social isolation and conduct safety checks to seniors in need. Meals on Wheels programs save significant taxpayer dollars by preventing unnecessary trips to the emergency room, admissions and readmissions to hospitals and delaying or eliminating the need for nursing home care. Yet, the nationwide Meals on Wheels network served 21 million fewer meals in 2017 than in 2005 due to funding not keeping pace with the rising need or inflation.

To learn more about EBRCOA's Meal on Wheels program, call 225-923-8000.

The East Baton Rouge Council on Aging (EBRCOA) is a non-profit organization serving the senior population of East Baton Rouge Parish. Annually, our agency delivers 435,000 meals through our "Meals on Wheels" Program and over 200,000 meals to seniors through our senior centers and meal sites.

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East Baton Rouge Council On Aging: Supporting Independence ~ Serving Seniors

Since 1973, the East Baton Rouge Council on Aging (EBRCOA), a 501c3 nonprofit supported by philanthropic donations and public funds (federal, state, and local), has served the seniors of East Baton Rouge Parish through a spectrum of nutritional and social services such as the nationally recognized Meals on Wheels program and over a dozen community senior centers throughout the Parish. EBRCOA is charged with discovering and meeting the growing needs of this ever-increasing population. Central to EBRCOA's mission – Supporting Independence and Serving Seniors – is providing high-quality services to seniors, the maintenance of their personal independence, and the enhancement of their storied lives while being good fiduciary stewards of public funds and trust.

More information about EBRCOA and its services can be found online at www.ebrcoa.org.