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DARDENNE HONORS LEGISLATURE AT LOUISIANA'S OLD STATE CAPITOL FENCE DEDICATION

Secretary of State Jay Dardenne will honor the Louisiana Legislature at the dedication of the 1855 cast iron fence on Tuesday, April 28, upon adjournment of the legislative session. The 1,575-foot fence, cast by the John Hill Foundry in Baton Rouge, is one of the most architecturally significant in the nation.

The historic fence reflects the architectural theme of the statehouse, incorporating symbols that honor Louisiana's political and cultural heritage and mirroring the intricate tracery patterns of the windows. The origin of many of these symbols dates to antiquity when icons such as the eagle and palmettes were first used to designate power, protection and prosperity. In the Gothic tradition of the statehouse architecture, many of these symbols have their roots in classical Greek and Roman culture.

There will also be a fence exhibit on display through Friday, May 29 in the Freeport-McMoRan room. The display includes photographs of the condition of the fence prior to the restoration and detailed black-and-white architectural line drawings of the symbols. There is also an activity area designed for children to create their own fence, color fence symbols and complete a word scramble.

Admission is free, and the building is wheelchair accessible. For more information about Louisiana's Old State Capitol, visit our Web site at <http://www.sos.louisiana.gov/osc>.

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