January
Leader Spotlight

Tomey Doucet
January Leader Spotlight: Tomey Doucet

The photo that inspired the formation of the LA-1 Task Force/LA-1 Coalition
Tomey Doucet was born on December 25, 1935 in Galliano, Louisiana. He is better known to me as Uncle Tomey or “Parin” (God Father)......he kind of got a kick out of that. He is my mom’s older brother.

Uncle Tomey, Graduated from Larose / Cut Off High School in 1954. His father, Harris Doucet, (my grandfather) and his uncles owned some Tugs boats, and he went to work for them after graduation. It seems as though his career path was shaping up nicely! A wife and daughter were nice additions to his new beginnings.

However, a few, short years later, tragedy stuck. Beginning with losing his father to illness and two of his young sisters to a fatal accident in January and March of 1958. He then lost his young bride, Mildred, to illness in January of 1960. Family losses were heart felt but a testament to the strength of family.

He also had to deal with the desolation of the tug boat partnership that his father had created with his uncles. Needless to say, his mother had to lean heavily on him because of that, but he also had to lean on her to help him raise his infant daughter...... What else could happen?

Well..... He met his second wife, my Aunt Iris, and continued the grow a family by having three more daughters (that’s four total for those of you who are counting)..... In 1963, he partnered up with his brother Joe Doucet, and friend, Dallas Adams, to form a new tug boat company. They named the company Doucet & Adams, Inc. He also partnered up with Nolty Theriot in the early 1970’s to form Offshore Tugs. Together they built a fleet of tugs to operate in the Gulf of Mexico, the North Sea, and other remote regions. Although the partnership with Theriot didn’t last, he went on to own, grow and operate Doucet and Adams with Dallas and Joe. Things were looking up!

In 1971 Uncle Tomey was elected to the first elected Board of Commissioners for The Greater Lafourche Port Commission, were he served as President for the last 15 years of his 27 year service. He was in his fifth consecutive term when he passed away in 1998. During his service, he recognized the urgent need to address the highway infrastructure to the Port, and was one of the founding members of the LA1 Task Force, which became the LA1 Coalition. During the 2006 State Legislative Session, State Representative Loulan Pitre introduced House Bill 1080 dedicating the Leeville Bridge and naming the bridge after him. The bill was passed and hence we now have the Tomey Doucet Bridge.

In 1996, he partnered with yet another venture including Lee Orgeron, Charlie Bruce, Joey Adams, and Andre’ Gravois to form another tug boat consortium called Offshore Towing, Inc. Uncle Tomey served as that company’s president as well.

Never afraid of challenge, a constant thinker, servant of the public......always courageous! Although not mentioned earlier, he accepted my mother and sisters and I with opened arms when we were in a time of need when I was just an infant. I served him from the time that I was fifteen until his death, and continued to serve my Aunt Iris at Doucet and Adams after he passed away. I eventually succeeded both my Uncle Tomey and Aunt Iris as President of Offshore Towing until I joined Crosby Tugs in 2012 (36 years).

Heavy things, creative things, meaningful things like trust, dignity, respect, loyalty. All the recipe for success and leadership. Besides my parents, he was the most influential person in my life. I have dedicated my service to you at SCIA, North Lafourche Levee Board, Association of Levee Boards, Morganza Action Coalition, Louisiana Flood Risk Coalition, and .....YES, LA1, to him. The God Father who taught me so much about leadership and service.

I miss him much...I think about him every day.....He brought so much color to life. God Bless my Parin Tomey

A leader who never gave up......A leader who never gave up on me.
November Leader Spotlight

Bob Alario
November Leader Spotlight: Bob Alario
Robert J. (Bob) Alario was born in Golden Meadow, Louisiana in 1938. To me, and most people, he is simply known as.........Bob.

Bob graduated from Golden Meadow High School in 1953. From there, he attended the University of Louisiana and was attending L.S.U. Law School when he accepted a study fellowship at Georgetown University’s Graduate School of Foreign Service, and received his Masters in Foreign Services in 1963. While attending Georgetown University, he worked full time for the U.S. Congressional House Committee on Un-American Activities. Bob began to apply his college education after he graduated from Georgetown taking a position with Texaco, Inc. in various international management positions in several different countries until 1968 when he returned to the U.S. Upon his return to the U.S., he enrolled in post graduate studies in finance and management at Tulane University, while accepting a position as Vice President and Director of North J. Theriot, Inc., Theriot Offshore International Ltd., and Offshore Tugs, Inc. marine worldwide service contractors.

Now, because my uncle, Tomey Doucet, and his partner, Dallas Adams, owned their own tug boats, and were themselves partners with Nolty Theriot in Offshore Tugs, Inc., .....I met Bob. Well, I was about ten or eleven years old then, and I didn’t know that Bob was such a sharp guy! I actually thought that tug boat people just had barbecues, seafood boils, and fish fries all the time, and hunted and fished at the camp on weekends. Not bad!

I started working for Uncles Tomey Doucet and Joe Doucet in 1976 on their boats, but in 1989 they offered me a position working in the office handling maintenance and repair for their fleet of tugs. By 1991 I became their Operations Manager and that is when I really got to know Bob Alario. I was 30 years old then and didn’t know much about the internal and technical matters of running a business.

There was a lot to learn in those days, and although my uncles were very knowledgeable about business, and we had several real good attorneys to depend on, I didn’t want to feel like a moron when they had conversations that I didn’t understand. So, I turned to OMSA. Bob was a president of OMSA then. Which I didn’t include in his bio, so.....add that to the list. He understood my challenges which were deeper than just not understanding some general business matters. He also knew that I would most likely be losing one of my uncles to cancer. He gave me his personal attention educating me on the Jones Act, General Maritime Law, Cabotage, American Bureau of Shipping, Safety, Maintenance Programs, Hiring Practices, STCW, Corporate Organization and Structure, Litigation and what to expect in litigation, Multi Jurisdictional law as it applied to our operations, Regulations, U.S. Coast Guard, etc., etc., etc.! I can go on for hours about this. And.....let’s not forget the Unions...the darn Unions! Although there were others who were heavily involved, Bob led this industry with a firm stance against the Unions. That was huge!......HUGE!

Bob served as Chairman and President of the Offshore Marine Service Association (OMSA) for 23...24 years or so. I think that he called it quits in 2004.....or so. I really can’t remember exactly when, but I do remember feeling a void when he left. I guess that was a signal that it was time for our generation to step up.

So.....here we are.

Bob Alario now lives in Greenville, South Carolina. Retired from OMSA, but he, along with his daughter, Mitzi, still run and operate Alario and Associates, L.L.C.

A leader who never gave up on me....a leader who fought his heart out for us as an industry.
October Leader Spotlight

Steve Scalise
Steve Joseph Scalise was born in New Orleans on October 6, 1965. He is a Republican, U.S. Congressman representing the First District of Louisiana in the House of Representatives in Washington, D.C. He is a Louisiana State University Fighting Tiger!

Congressman Scalise started his tenure of leadership by being elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives in 1996 representing District 82. He served 12 years as a Member of the Louisiana House of Representatives until he was elected to the Louisiana State Senate in January of 2008. He served as a Member of the Louisiana State Senate for four months and then was elected to U.S. House of Representatives representing District 1. The Congressman was chosen to Chair the Republican Study Committee in 2012, and he was elected by his colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to serve as the House Majority Whip in 2014.

Congressman Scalise played an instrumental role when he assumed and advocacy position to support the Oil and Gas Industry in the wake of the Macondo event, and the subsequent moratorium. He challenged the Obama Administration’s positions and actions that were targeted to cripple the industry. His involvement defending one of our most precious industries showed his devotion to our region and the people who he represents.

There are so many other positions that the Congressman has taken to benefit our region. His resilient perspective during his tenure in the U.S. House of Representatives has been hard to ignore. The ability to be diplomatic, cool under pressure, and smart in challenging situations has propelled him to the top of leadership roles in our government.

An ordinary, average guy who cares for his wife and children, friends, and community. Taking on the toughest of challenges with a confident smile and love for Louisiana, and the people that he represents. I am proud, blessed, and fortunate to have him as a friend who has taught me so much about how the government works, and how important the people of our district are in the overall contribution to our nation. His term “DO SOMETHING” sticks with me every day. Even after suffering the most extreme physical and emotional challenge that any person should have to endure, he returns to our den to afford us his appreciation for support, and offer us that level of confidence and good attitude that not all leaders posses. Resilience at the highest level. His love, commitment, dedication, and devotion got him to leadership.....his courage, by the hand of God, brought him back to us.

God Bless Congressman Steve Scalise!
A leader who never gave up.......a leader who never gave up on us.
September Leader Spotlight

Gus & Ruby Cheramie
Ruby Doucet Cheramie was born on September 9, 1937, and Gus Cheramie, Jr. was born on September 19, 1942. They are better known to me as Mom and Dad.

In the early part or 1973 a single mother of three met a single father of four. Apparently, the chemistry and magic was moving and compelling! Enough so that they wed in April of 1973, four months after they met. I was 12 years old at that time, and things were changing fast, but I finally got that father that wanted so badly, and, having two sisters, and feeling a bit outnumbered, I got those brothers that I always wanted. Four, to be exact!

Through the years a blended household of seven children accounted for interesting times. These years brought challenges for all of us that were hard to understand at times, but were directly influential with our development as we matured into adults. The term “understanding” took on a whole new meaning.

However challenging, we were taught important things like honor, dignity, respect, earn and deserve, vision and focus, reason, logic, care, love and understanding. Lessons about being supportive of one and other. How to be encouraging and proud of each other for accomplishments, but sympathetic and consoling when necessary….affording courtesy to others, but not to accept being taken advantage of either.......the value of the love and the grace of God.

I thank them for the courage that they applied to the creation of our family that we have today, and for giving me the two best sisters and the four best brothers that any man could ask for. I thank them for their true guidance and friendship they have afforded us, and for showing us how to love. This journey has provided evidence of how something that is perfect does not need to be so perfect.

Leaders who never gave up….leaders who never gave up on us... Happy Birthday Mom, Happy Birthday Dad!
August Leader Spotlight

Sister Claire
Sister Mary Claire Rodrigue was born in Lockport, La in 1924. Everybody knew her as......Sister Claire.

I attended Holy Rosary Catholic School form 1966 to 1973 (first grade through sixth grade), and Sister Claire was the Principal when my sisters and I attended school there. I actually didn’t know that she was from Lockport or that her last name was Rodrigue until long after I graduated high school.

As mentioned before, she was born in 1924. Sister Claire attended Dominican College in New Orleans and received a degree in elementary education. She entered the Immaculate Conception congregation in 1942 and professed her vows in 1945. Her ministry as a teacher in Louisiana Schools started at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in White Castle, St. Vincent de Paul in New Orleans, and St. Charles Borromeo in Destrehan, before becoming a teacher and Principal of Holy Rosary Catholic School in Larose in 1963. She was also missionary to Saltillo, Mexico until 2006.

Her faith, dedication, and love earned her the distinguished Papal Medal “Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice” (For Assembly {church}, and Priest).

As a child, it was difficult to understand her strict and direct ways, but as a man I learned to understand the structure that she helped many of us to develop as we matured into adults. For that I will always be grateful.

She was in her 62nd year of religious life when she passed away on Christmas Eve 2007.
July Leader Spotlight

Nolty Theriot
Nolty J. Theriot was born in Golden Meadow, La in 1924. He was a Private in the U.S. Army, 17th Airborne during World War II. He escaped from captivity during the war, and survived to return to Louisiana and started a career in the marine transportation industry by converting a shrimp boat into a tug boat.

Mr. Nolty struggled to survive at times, but had the tenacity to try and try again, and eventually earned success, becoming one of the largest Marine Transportation Operators in the world. Operating in remote regions like the North Sea, the Persian Gulf, Africa, and, of course, the domestic Gulf of Mexico.

Mr. Nolty was elected to the Louisiana State House of Representatives in 1976 but died of cancer before he could take office at the age of 52.

A leader who never gave up......