Bertrand chairs CODOFIL

Dr. John Avery Bertrand of Crowley has been appointed chairman of the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana by Gov. Buddy Roemer.

Prior to his appointment as chairman, Bertrand had served four years on the CODOFIL state board.

Bertrand succeeds James Domengeaux of Lafayette, the former U.S. Congressman and founder of CODOFIL, who died April 11, 1988, after 20 years of leadership as head of that state agency.

Created in 1968, CODOFIL is mandated by the state Legislature to preserve and expand the French language and culture in Louisiana.

"I realize that no one can replace Mr. Domengeaux; one can only succeed him. I do hope to carry on the work of CODOFIL as initiated by the late Mr. Domengeaux. I will strive to make it a truly statewide organization," said the newly-appointed chairman of CODOFIL.

Bertrand will preside at his first official meeting on Friday and Saturday in Natchitoches on the occasion of CODOFIL's 20th anniversary reunion of past participants in scholarship and study programs abroad.

Bertrand has been involved in education all of his life. After graduating from USL in 1950, he obtained a master degree in geography from LSU in 1952 and a doctorate degree in educational administration from the University of Texas in 1966.

He became a classroom teacher, then a principal. He also taught at the college level for two years.

He spent the last 19 years of his professional career as the Acadia Parish school superintendent. In 1983, Bertrand was elected to represent the 7th Congressional District on the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, a seat to which he was reelected last year without opposition.

He is presently serving as chairman of the Due Process Committee and Vice-Chairman of both the Vocational Educational Committee and the Elementary-Secondary Committee of BESE.