French Consul-General Is Honored in Lafayette

LAFAYETTE, La. — A host of south Louisianians leading this state’s movement to preserve its French language and heritage turned out here to bid farewell to French Consul-General Jean LeCannellier.

LeCannellier, honored at a testimonial dinner here Saturday night, has been the French government’s chief diplomatic liaison with the Southern states for the past three years. He will yield his position in July to Jean-Jacques Peyronnet, currently counselor of the French Embassy in Colombia.

Several Acadians praised LeCannellier for his cooperation in this state’s efforts to preserve her French language and heritage.

Among those commenting on LeCannellier’s stay in Louisiana was Louis Michot, member of the state board of education. Michot, who was in France recently to study the feasibility of establishing a branch of the University of Southwestern Louisiana there, thanked LeCannellier for his help in the venture and praised him for his cooperation throughout his three years in New Orleans.

Others who discussed LeCannellier’s work as consul-general included James Domengeaux, chairman of the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL); Leo LeBlanc, Quebec government representative permanently stationed in Lafayette; Bob Angers, president of the International Relations Association of Acadiana (TIRAA); and James Bezou, member of the state CO-DOFIL organization, from New Orleans.

Co-sponsoring the event at Jacob’s Restaurant were CODOFIL, the Acadian Charter Chapter of American Businesswomen, the Attakapas Historical Society, the Richelieu Club, France-Amerique of Acadiana, France-Amerique of Lake Charles, the Institute of French Studies at the University of Southwestern Louisiana and TIRAA.