



P.O. BOX 56157
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70156

MARJORIE R. ESMAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

February 5, 2009

VIA U.S. MAIL AND FACSIMILE

Warden Burl Cain
Louisiana State Penitentiary
Angola, LA 70712

Re: Offer to Remove Monument Language in December 10, 2008 letter.

Dear Warden Cain,

The ACLU of Louisiana supports you in your efforts to encourage prisoners to look forward toward changing their lives for the better. We expect those efforts to be conducted in a way that will not endorse one religion over another, or religion over non-religion. The Philippians Monument, as it currently exists, presents several constitutional problems, most notably that it endorses one particular religion over others. Delivery people, family members visiting prisoners, attorneys visiting clients, clergy, and state employees all travel down Tunica Trace to the buildings at Angola and all must pass the Philippians Monument along the way. They all deserve to have their own religious beliefs respected as they go about their business at Angola.

In consultation with our complainant, we accept your agreement to remove the prayer¹ from the left side of the monument, and to remove the attribution to Philippians 3:13. Please let us know when this will be accomplished. We thank you for recognizing the need to protect the religious freedoms of all.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Esman
Executive Director

¹ We believe the prayer on the left side of the monument is the "Prayer of Protection," which states:

The light of God surrounds you,
The love of God enfolds you,
The power of God protects you,
And the presence of God watches over you;
Wherever you are, God is.