



## Gov. Ritter Visits Chappelow during VFW Gathering

**June 12, 2009** – Gov. Bill Ritter met with staff members at Chappelow K-8 Arts Literacy Magnet School on Thursday, June 11.

Ritter was in Evans to address the state convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. More than 500 vets and state veterans' affairs representatives are conducting their state convention in Evans, using Chappelow and Dos Rios Elementary as their main sites, along with two other sites in the city. Thomas Hawley, commander of Evans VFW Post 6624, said this year marks the first time in 89 years that the state convention has been in Evans. "It's a pretty neat event, and we're very honored to have them at Chappelow," Lara-Black said.

Ritter spoke to the assembly in the Chappelow gymnasium, addressing the importance of healthcare and election reform to allow more access for veterans, Lara-Black said. Afterward, Ritter spoke with Lara-Black and office manager Tina Maxwell, asking questions about Chappelow's students and test scores. "He was very impressed with our third grade CSAP scores given our free and reduced (meal) numbers," Lara-Black said.



Gov. Bill Ritter poses with staff members at Chappelow K-8 Arts Literacy Magnet School on Thursday, June 11, stopping for a picture with building manager Angela Pinon, left, office manager Tina Maxwell, and assistant principal Valerie Lara-Black, right. Ritter was in town to speak at the state VFW convention.



"It was truly touching to arrive at work yesterday and see the Evans Fire Department out front with four uniformed officers standing beside it with the American flag hanging from its tower and our veterans being saluted as they entered our building," Maxwell said of the VFW event being hosted at Chappelow.