

# Hurricane Katrina

*A Decade of Progress through Partnerships*

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## Fort Maurepas

*Ocean Springs, Miss. 39564*

Applicant: City of Ocean Springs      FEMA Funding: **\$774,488**  
Jackson County

**BACKGROUND:** Fort Maurepas was the site of the first European colonization in Mississippi, which was part of France's Louisiana Province at the time. The French chose the famous explorer and aristocrat Pierre Le Moyne D'Iberville (*below*) to establish its first settlement and Fort Maurepas became the first capitol (also known as Fort Biloxi, after the local Native Americans).



After anchoring his fleet off Ship Island in 1699, D'Iberville built the fort in what is now the town of Ocean Springs. He chose the location because the depth of the water could accommodate sea-going ships. It was named Maurepas in honor of the French Minister of Marine and Colonies. The garrison had four walls of squared logs and 12 guns. With barracks, a warehouse and a chapel, it served as a base for further exploration. It was abandoned in 1702 for a new fort in Mobile, Ala. because the British were rumored to be making their way to the area.

**THE DAMAGE:** Hurricane Katrina destroyed a replica of the fort that had been built in 1981. Sidewalks, the boardwalk and sewer and water drainage system were also damaged.

**FEMA FUNDING:** A grant of **\$774,488** went toward constructing a park near the site where the fort once stood. The park includes a children's playground, an outdoor barbecue area with picnic tables, a bandstand and a two-story building that provides a view of the beach. Improvements were made to the sewer infrastructure and storm drainage as well as pathways, boardwalks and a sailors memorial.



FEMA

