

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HONORS GEORGIA NATIVE JIM ANDREW

(Wrens, 3/28/08)—The Georgia House of Representatives, led by Rep. Jon Burns (R-Newington), recently honored former Jefferson Energy Cooperative Director and current Rural Development Utilities Programs (RDUP) Administrator Jim Andrew.

In a ceremony held March 19 at the state capitol, Andrew was presented a resolution commending him for more than 30 years of exemplary service to Georgia, his local community and the nation.

Andrew was appointed administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Utilities Programs by President George W. Bush and confirmed by the U.S. Senate in November 2005.

“I was born and reared in rural America and know more about that than anything else,” Andrew says. In his view, his current role as RDUP administrator is “the culmination of my life experiences and service to rural America.”

As administrator, he is responsible for achieving the goals of the department--to improve life in rural America by administering the country's rural electric, telecommunications, water, and waste programs. According to Andrew, one current example to benefit rural America includes expanding the availability of broadband Internet service to remote areas, making small business more practical and providing more opportunity for telecommuting.

His long history with and dedicated service to electric cooperatives is recognized at the local, state and national levels. Andrew served on the board of directors of Jefferson Energy Cooperative in Wrens, Ga., a post to which he was elected in 1976 and

continued serving for 25 years. He also served on the statewide board of Georgia EMC, and later was elected board president.

Andrew represented Georgia on the board of directors of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), a national association of 900 member cooperatives in 47 states. During 16 years with NRECA, he served as board president for two years and helped launch Touchstone Energy's national co-op marketing campaign. Andrew was also named to the board of the Cooperative Finance Corporation, a supplemental finance cooperative.

He graduated from the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa with a degree in business administration and served in the Alabama Army National Guard for eight years. In addition to his cooperative contributions, he worked in the agriculture irrigation business for more than 25 years, and in sales and management for an electrical distribution equipment manufacturer. He also consulted with electric cooperatives and provided financial consulting in the brokerage division of a major insurance company.

Jefferson Energy Cooperative is a consumer-owned cooperative providing electricity and related services to over 30,000 consumers in parts of 11 counties in the CSRA.

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