



NEWS RELEASE

January 28, 2014

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C.T. Bryant Named 2014 Unsung Virginian *Virginia's Electric Cooperatives Honor Gaff-N-Go Rodeo Founder*

(Richmond, Va.) — Clarence T. Bryant, a retired Central Virginia Electric Cooperative (CVEC) manager who played a lead role in organizing the annual Gaff-N-Go Lineman Rodeo competition, is the recipient of the 46th annual Unsung Virginian Award, presented by the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives (VMDAEC).

The award, which honors a dedicated citizen for services rendered to the Commonwealth without thought of personal gain, was presented at a luncheon held at the Omni Hotel in Richmond on January 27.

In honoring Bryant with the 2014 Unsung Virginian Award, Larry Howdysshell, chairman of the VMDAEC Awards Committee, praised him for being “a doer who embraced a good idea and shepherded that idea into reality with straightforward hard work and the leadership to bring others along.”

Coordinated by VMDAEC and held each April, the Gaff-N-Go Rodeo has grown into a highly successful regional gathering attended by linemen from municipal and investor owned utilities as well as electric cooperatives. A total of 121 utility workers from nine states participated in the 2013 event, held at the Caroline County Agricultural Fairgrounds in Ruther Glen, Va.

In his remarks, Rodeo Committee Chairman John C. Lee, Jr., president and CEO of Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative, spoke of Bryant's continuing active role in the planning and execution of this event, as well as service on the International Lineman's Rodeo and Expo Advisory Committee.

“This increasingly popular two-day event, now in its 12th year, provides an educational experience for electric linemen, a celebration for all in the Cooperative family and a call to the general public and media to consider these ‘rugged individuals’ who keep the lights on throughout the Commonwealth,” added Lee.

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Gary E. Wood, CVEC president and CEO, and Maxie Rozell, director of safety & security at Rappahannock Electric Cooperative who chairs the rodeo's staff working committee, also testified to Bryant's commitment to establishing this annual event beginning in 2003. Many participants have gone on to compete at the International Lineman's Rodeo, held each October in Kansas. Among those present to honor Bryant was Steve Iaquinto, co-chair of the International Lineman's Rodeo Advisory Committee.

A lifelong resident of Roseland, Va., C.T. Bryant graduated from Virginia Military Institute with a B.S. in Civil Engineering. He began his 36-year career with CVEC in 1974 as a summer employee, working his way up to the position of Operations Manager and also serving as Systems Engineering Manager prior to his retirement.

The Unsung Virginian Award was established in 1968 and is presented annually by the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives (VMDAEC). Nominations for the award are solicited from the members of the 13 electric cooperatives that serve Virginia. C.T. Bryant was nominated for the award by members of Central Virginia Electric Cooperative in Lovington, Va.

Founded in 1944, VMDAEC is the trade association for 15 consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric distribution cooperatives that serve Delaware, Maryland and Virginia. The Glen Allen, Va.-based Association provides its member cooperatives with employee, director, and safety education and training, government relations and legislative support, and communications services, including the publishing of *Cooperative Living* magazine. For more information, visit www.vmdaec.com, www.gaff-n-go.com or www.co-opliving.com.

Headquartered in Lovington, CVEC is a member-owned electric-distribution utility serving nearly 35,000 meters in 14 counties across central Virginia. For more information, visit www.mycvec.com.

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