



NEWS RELEASE

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Stanley Named Distinguished Friend of the Electric Cooperatives *State Senator Honored at Richmond Event*

The Hon. William M. (Bill) Stanley, Jr., a Virginia State Senator representing the 20th District, has been named a Distinguished Friend of the Electric Cooperatives by the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives (VMDAEC). Senator Stanley's selection marks only the seventh occasion in the past 12 years where the cooperatives have chosen to recognize an individual with this prestigious award. Past recipients of the award include former Congressman Virgil Goode, former State Senator John Chichester and the first-ever recipient Bob Bloxom, former State Delegate and Secretary of Agriculture.

This award honors legislators and others in public service who have strongly supported the best interests of electric-cooperative consumers. Stanley, who was nominated by the board and staff of Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative (MEC), accepted his award at VMDAEC's winter meeting and legislative day, held Jan. 26 in Richmond, Va.

In his remarks, VMDAEC President and CEO Jack Reasor noted that early in his legislative career, Sen. Stanley sponsored critical legislation requiring electric cooperatives and telecommunications companies to negotiate in good faith for cable-line pole attachment fees.

John Lee, MEC president and CEO, added, "Bill also worked on and helped pass a bill to streamline the State Corporation Commission's approval process for constructing electric transmission lines for industrial parks. He has worked tirelessly to bring industry into Southside Virginia, including much of the territory MEC serves."

Lee continued, "Since his election to office in 2011, he has always listened willingly and intently to our points of view, while providing meaningful feedback and support. Bill is always accessible, is a man of his word, and always considers the electric cooperatives' position when voting on issues that affect our charge of providing safe, clean, affordable and reliable energy to our members."

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The 2015 Distinguished Friend of Electric Cooperatives Award nomination also cites Stanley's many contributions to his community, including service on countless committees, panels and commissions, as well as his regularly attending local fairs, parades and festivals that provide an opportunity to interact with his constituents.

About MEC

Headquartered in Chase City with district offices in Chase City, Emporia and Gretna, Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative is a not-for-profit member-owned energy provider that serves more than 31,100 homes, farms and businesses throughout nine Central and Southside Virginia counties. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer. For more information, go to www.meckelec.org.

About VMDAEC

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 or www.co-opliving.com.

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