

December 7, 2006

Marion Berry receives Sidney S. McMath Public Service Leadership Award

Little Rock, Ark. – Dec. 7, 2006 – The Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas recently presented the first Sidney S. McMath Public Service Leadership Award to U.S. Rep. Marion Berry, D. Ark.

“It is with great honor that the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas name Congressman Marion Berry as the first recipient of the Sidney S. McMath Public Service Leadership Award,” said Carmie Henry, vice president of governmental affairs for the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas.

The Sidney S. McMath Public Service Leadership Award was created by the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas to recognize outstanding leadership by a public official that results in improvements to the quality of life of rural Arkansans. Gov. McMath’s unwavering support of the electric cooperative movement in Arkansas, along with his other accomplishments on behalf of Arkansans, set the standard for public service in Arkansas, Henry said.

“Congressman Berry’s dedication to the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas has been demonstrated numerous times through his votes on such legislative issues as funding for the Power Marketing Administrations and the Rural Utilities Services loan programs and his sponsorship of legislation to improve competition in the rail industry,” Henry said. “He actively advocated on our behalf for a cooperative exemption in the recently passed federal pension reform legislation that will save electric cooperatives a quarter of a billion dollars annually on a nationwide basis and allow cooperative employees to maintain their retirement benefits.”

Honorees are presented a statue of McMath that depicts his dedication to the electric cooperative movement.

The Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas comprise 17 electric distribution cooperatives; Arkansas Electric Cooperatives Inc. (AECI), a Little Rock-based cooperative that provides various services to the distribution cooperatives; and Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corp. (AECC), a generation and transmission cooperative. The distribution cooperatives provide electricity to approximately 460,000 members, or customers, in Arkansas and surrounding states.

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