

# Lineworker Appreciation Day April 9, 2018



#ThankALineworker

**PLEASE MOVE  
OVER FOR  
EMERGENCY  
AND UTILITY  
CREWS**

If you see police, firefighters, utility crews or other emergency personnel on the side of the road, please slow down and move over when possible.

**Together, we can keep our crews safe.**



IMAGES: NRECA, RHEM™



CEO Mel Coleman, center, receives the Clyde T. Ellis Award, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association’s highest honor. He is pictured with NRECA CEO Jim Matheson, left, and NRECA President Phil Carson in Nashville on Feb. 28.

## CEO Coleman receives highest NRECA honor

North Arkansas Electric Cooperative CEO Mel Coleman received the Clyde T. Ellis Award at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association’s Annual Meeting in Nashville on Feb. 28.

The Clyde T. Ellis Award represents the highest honor bestowed by the NRECA Board of Directors and is given to someone who has made enduring contributions to electric cooperatives. Ellis represented Arkansas in the U.S. House of Representatives before becoming NRECA’s first general manager in 1943.

“I couldn’t be more pleased to accept this award from my exceptional colleagues on NRECA’s board,” Coleman said. “As not-for-profit businesses, electric cooperatives are driven by a desire to exceed their member expectations. I look forward to watching that focus continue to shape the electric cooperative movement in the coming decades.”

Coleman has advocated for electric cooperative members and their need for reliable, affordable power during his more than 30 years at North Arkansas Electric Cooperative. He serves on the NRECA Board of Directors and served as its president in 2015 and 2016. During Coleman’s tenure, he improved the visibility of NRECA International, which develops and implements electrification projects across the globe. His personal involvement in electrification projects with governmental leadership in Guatemala led to the formation of the first electric cooperatives in that country and the expansion of democratic self-control for citizens in one of the poorest countries in Central America.

While volunteering at an international electrification project site in Guatemala in August 2015, Coleman received news that NRECA CEO Jo Ann Emerson had fallen seriously ill. In the ensuing months, Coleman provided leadership to NRECA, its board and its members and marshaled the board through conversations that led to the search for a new CEO. Nearly a year later, Coleman announced the board’s selection of Jim Matheson as NRECA’s sixth CEO.

## Lease or buy Marathon® water heaters

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Qualified members can lease up to a 50-gallon tank for \$12 a month and an 85-gallon or larger tank for \$15 a month. NAEC pays a portion of the installation by contracted, licensed plumbers. Call 870-895-6245 for details.



Marathon® water heaters feature thick polyurethane insulation.