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## NEWS RELEASE

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# Mecklenburg County resident receives the Electric Cooperatives' Good Samaritan Award

C. Franklin Dover, Jr., a retired educational administrator and member of Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative (MEC), has earned the 2019 Good Samaritan Award presented by the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives (VMDAEC).

Given to an individual whose body of good work has been so selfless and life-changing to others that it is held up as a “gold standard” of community service, the award was presented to Dover on December 6 in a surprise ceremony held during the Clarksville Lake Country Chamber of Commerce’s Christmas Social in Clarksville, Va.

“Since relocating to Clarksville 13 years ago and commencing a second career in real estate, Mr. Dover has worked diligently as a director for the Clarksville Ruritan Club, delivering in 2018 over \$180,000 in funds, including \$75,000 in scholarships and \$30,000 to families in need, to a community that has endured significant job loss,” says David Lipscomb, MEC vice president of member and energy services.

As a member of the United Country Virginia Realty BBQ crew, Dover is renowned for his work to assist in providing meals throughout the year to help raise funds--from donating and serving hot dogs to those attending Clarksville’s Fourth of July Parade, dinner for hot air balloonists during Clarksville’s Lakefest celebration, Thanksgiving dinners to the community and a holiday luncheon at which gifts are collected to give needy children for Christmas. “The BBQ crew has also provided meals for hard-working Cooperative line crews helping to restore power following a major outage event,” Lipscomb adds.

In his nomination letter of support J. Charles Lee, a retired educator, wrote, “Frank has a clear and realistic vision of what this community can be, and he unselfishly applies his education, professional experience, his energy and financial resources to make good things possible for others. He has an uncanny ability to predict the feasibility of various projects; and if he thinks it will work, he always does more than his share, with a participation that is usually quiet but always significant.”

For more than a decade, Dover has organized the Ruritans’ Friday night dance that raises approximately \$10,000 a year and remains a weekly highlight for many residents. He not only lines up musicians from across Southside Virginia, but also promotes and manages the event and cleans up afterwards. Noting that Dover serves on the club’s Special Needs Committee that helps families who have incurred tragedies throughout the year, Ruritan President Janice Edwards wrote, “If we only had 100 more people like Franklin Dover, we could change the world!”

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In presenting Dover with the award, VMDAEC President & CEO Richard Johnstone said, “Frank is a living example of a Good Samaritan and exemplifies the 7<sup>th</sup> cooperative principle of ‘Concern for Community.’ We are proud to recognize his contributions that have made such a difference for Southside Virginians.”

Award nominations were solicited from the 13 electric cooperatives that serve Virginia through promotion in *Cooperative Living* magazine, and Dover was nominated by Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative. MEC President and CEO John C. Lee, Jr., comments, “Frank’s selflessness and enduring commitment to his community make us very proud to count him amongst MEC’s members. We know him to be caring, unselfish, humble, pleasant, kind, energetic, respectful and generous, and if you aspire to help others, there can be no greater hero, or mentor, than Franklin Dover...it is simply impossible for anyone to give any more...to their fellow man.”

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 31,000 homes, farms and businesses throughout nine Central and Southside Virginia counties and five counties in North Carolina. For more information, go to [www.meckelec.org](http://www.meckelec.org).

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](http://www.vmdaec.com) and [www.co-opliving.com](http://www.co-opliving.com).



Claude Franklin Dover, Jr., is the recipient of the 2019 Good Samaritan Award presented by the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives (VMDAEC). He received the prestigious award, sponsored by Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative (MEC), in a surprise presentation ceremony at the Clarksville Chamber of Commerce holiday dinner on Dec. 6. Shown after the presentation are (from left) VMDAEC Board of Directors Chairman Herbert Patrick, Carol (Mrs. Franklin) Dover, award recipient Franklin Dover, MEC Director and Vice Chairman of the VMDAEC Board Bob Jones, and President and CEO of Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative and VMDAEC Director John Lee, Jr.