



**ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC**  
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*Your cooperative is committed to the provision of safe, reliable, and reasonably priced electricity and other energy related services while improving the communities we serve.*

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

## Groundman to CEO

We say goodbye to leader and friend

**MOST PEOPLE BARELY LEAVE** a mark on the places they have worked. This was not the case for Doug Wilson, former Chief Executive Officer of Broad River Electric Cooperative, who passed away on November 23.

Wilson began his career as a groundman in 1971 when he was still in his teens. Through the years, he would gradually climb the ladder, becoming a lineman, crew foreman, safety coordinator, special equipment director, operations manager and assistant manager, where he oversaw all of the cooperative's day-to-day operations. As if he was not busy enough, during his rise through the ranks he pursued and was awarded his college degree from Limestone College and earned numerous certificates and distinctions. In 2011, he ascended to the position of CEO, serving until his retirement in 2016.

Wilson influenced dozens of employees and members of the cooperative, and he will be remembered for many reasons. Aside from his determination and leadership, he had a quick wit and strong story-telling abilities. Friends and employees alike do not talk long about him without retelling some of them. While cooperative history will remember him for his innovation and new ideas for the co-op in the areas of communications and new processes, employees, former employees and friends remember him for the human side of leadership, namely, his conviction and generosity.

Cary Johnson, senior vice president of Operations, spent many years working with Wilson. Johnson recalls Wilson's extraordinary grit and work ethic, even in the face of numerous challenges, which often happen in the field.

"Doug always said things like, 'There's one way and then there's the Doug way,' or 'If you can't, I can,' Johnson says, adding, "He wasn't just a boss, he was a co-worker, helping you to do your job and do it right."

Wilson impacted all areas of the co-op, but influenced the lineman/operations side the most, having worked every position. He will also be known for his giving nature and support.

"He spoiled us rotten," says 30-year employee, Sara Medley, with a laugh. "We didn't want for a thing. In the winter, if one of us said, 'I wish I had some chicken stew,' he would call his wife, and we'd have it by lunchtime." Other employees tell of Wilson driving them places during inclement weather or to and from work during winter storms.

Perhaps his most lasting memory, and most telling of his personality, comes from his leadership in shaping the future of Broad River Electric Cooperative and the cooperative movement. Wilson was a role model for his peers, his employees and even his board of trustees. Norris Fowler, chairman of the board, says, "His personal character was an example for his peers to follow. His love, loyalty and determination to Broad River's members certainly set high standards for us all."

Wilson leaves behind his wife, Linda; his children, Kevin, Douglas and Lacey; numerous grandchildren; and hundreds of cooperative peers and friends across the state.



**Former Broad River Electric CEO Doug Wilson passed away in November.**





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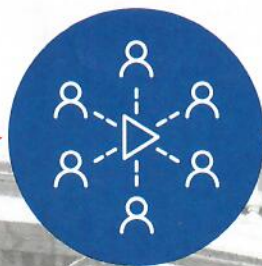
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