



1996 Inductees



Vernon L. Berg



1920-1998

A veteran of the U.S. Army Air Corps (1942-1945), Vernon Berg was liberated from a German POW camp on April 29, 1945.

He returned to South Dakota to become a cooperative and Farmers Union leader. His record includes a combined 83 years of service as a member of the board of directors of local rural electric, supply and financial cooperatives.

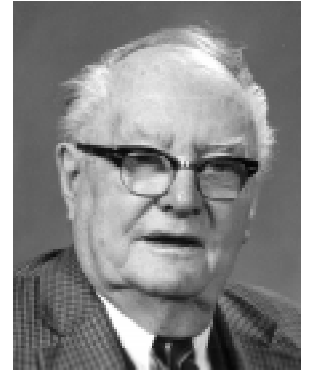
Berg was a member of the board of directors of the Huron-Mitchell Production Credit Association (now the Farm Credit Association) for 22 years. He also represented South Dakota for six years on the Advisory Board to the Farm Credit District Board of Omaha, Neb.

His support for rural electrification led to election to the board of directors of the Intercounty Electric Association at Mitchell. He served on the Intercounty board of directors for 15 years and was a member of the Heartland Consumer Power District board of directors for 22 years.

Berg was a member of the board of directors of the Sanborn County Farmers Union Oil Company for 18 years and was an active member and leader in the Sanborn County Farmers Union and he served as president of that organization for several years.

His public service included 15 years as a member of his local rural school board and membership on the local farmer-elected Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (now Farm Service Agency) board of directors.

Leo P. Flynn



1908-2001

A 1933 graduate of Creighton University Law School, Leo Flynn helped to organize Whetstone Valley Electric Cooperative at Milbank and became the cooperative's first attorney in 1941.

He researched and wrote South Dakota's basic rural electric cooperative enabling legislation in 1939 and led a successful eight-year battle to lobby the legislation through the State Legislature.

Flynn also wrote and lobbied the South Dakota Consumers Power District law. Enacted in 1951, the legislation cleared the way for cooperatively owned generation and transmission facilities and their integration with the federal power system.

He believed that rural electric cooperatives needed to speak with one unified voice and championed the establishment of the South Dakota Rural Electric Association in 1942.

Widely respected beyond the borders of South Dakota, he served as chairman of the National Rural Electric Lawyers organization from 1956 until 1980 and was the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) Region VI Lawyers representative for nearly 30 years.

Flynn was also legal counsel to the South Dakota Rural Electric Association for more than 50 years and provided legal advice and counsel to nearly every rural electric cooperative in the state.

