BURKE COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA

PROCLAMATION - LINEMEN APPRECIATION DAY - APRIL 18, 2026

WHEREAS, linemen play a vital role in ensuring the safe and reliable delivery of electricity to homes, businesses, and essential services throughout Burke County, the State of North Carolina, and the nation; and

WHEREAS, their service is fundamental to the daily lives of our citizens, supporting economic growth, education, healthcare, public safety, and countless other aspects of modern life; and

WHEREAS, linemen work under inherently dangerous conditions, often far from their homes and families, to construct, maintain, and restore the electrical infrastructure that powers our communities; and

WHEREAS, linemen routinely work with high-voltage electricity, high above the ground, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, in all weather conditions, facing significant personal risk to ensure the continuous flow of power and the safety and well-being of the public; and

WHEREAS, during hurricanes, severe storms, ice events, and other natural disasters that impact Burke County and our region, linemen work tirelessly—often around the clock—to restore power, stabilize critical infrastructure, and help our community recover with strength and resilience; and

WHEREAS, in Burke County's diverse landscape—from rural farmland to mountainous terrain—linemen navigate steep slopes, wooded areas, and remote locations to repair downed lines and damaged equipment, ensuring that even the most isolated residents are not left without service; and

WHEREAS, linemen frequently serve as first responders during emergencies, helping secure hazardous environments so that other public safety personnel may safely perform their duties; and

WHEREAS, linemen dedicate their lives to public service, often with little recognition, despite the extraordinary hazards and sacrifices associated with their profession.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Burke County Board of Commissioners hereby designates April 18, 2026, as **"Linemen Appreciation Day"** in Burke County and expresses its sincere gratitude to all linemen—whether serving municipal systems such as ElectriCities in the Town of Drexel and the City of Morganton, cooperative providers such as Rutherford Electric Membership Corporation, or investor-owned utilities such as Duke Energy—for their unwavering commitment to keeping our citizens safe, our communities powered, and our quality of life strong.

Approved this 16th day of March 2026.

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Jeffrey C. Brittain, Chairman
Burke Co. Board of Commissioners