



Honoring Water Advocates

By Kimberly Cook

Each year at the Annual Joint North Dakota Water Convention and Irrigation Workshop, the water industry recognizes individuals who have put forth great effort and have dedicated their time and knowledge to North Dakota's water industry. This year, multiple individuals with ties to the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District (Garrison Diversion) received awards at the convention. Dave Koland, former general manager of Garrison Diversion, was inducted into the North Dakota Water Users Association (NDWUA) Hall of Fame; former Barnes County Director Roger Bischoff was honored posthumously with a Water Wheel Award; and John Leinginer, former Griggs County Director, was honored posthumously as a Commodore.

Dave Koland NDWUA Hall of Fame

Dave Koland, Garrison Diversion's former general manager, received one of the highest honors recognized in the North Dakota water industry in December. Dave was honored by being inducted into the NDWUA Hall of Fame for his leadership and commitment to water resource development in the state.

Dave has been a lifelong champion for water development and water policy issues in North Dakota and a leader for irrigation development and rural water interests. He began his service with Garrison Diversion in 2002 and became general manager in 2003, a position he held until his retirement in 2015. Prior to Garrison Diversion, he served as executive director for the North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association in Bismarck.

Dave has also represented North Dakota in the National Water Resources Association (NWRA) for nearly 20 years. He served as second vice president in 2011 and then continued as first vice president in 2013. Dave just wrapped up his two-year term as president of the association, where he was also awarded the John M. Sayre Leadership Award to honor his committed leadership to the NWRA.

"It's a great honor to be selected for the Hall of Fame among all the other outstanding water stewards in North Dakota," says Dave.

Garrison Diversion congratulates Dave on this great honor.



Roger Bischoff

Water Wheel

Roger Bischoff, who lived in Valley City, was elected to the Garrison Diversion Board in 2008. He actively served as a representative of Barnes County until his death in 2016. Roger was always passionate about representing the people he served and looked out for their interests. His dedication, devotion, and leadership to Garrison Diversion and North Dakota's water industry make him a deserving Water Wheel recipient.

Roger was a dedicated supporter of Garrison Diversion's mission to provide a reliable, high quality, and affordable water supply to benefit the people of North Dakota. He was devoted to the fulfillment of the Garrison Diversion project and forward movement of the Red River



Valley Water Supply Project.

Roger was an active participant on Garrison Diversion's Red River Valley Committee, where he played a key role in the progression of the Red River Valley Water Supply Project.

He also previously served as a Barnes County commissioner, dedicated to the interests of people he served.

Roger owned several businesses over the years, but most recently owned and operated Allard Trophy Co. in Valley City.

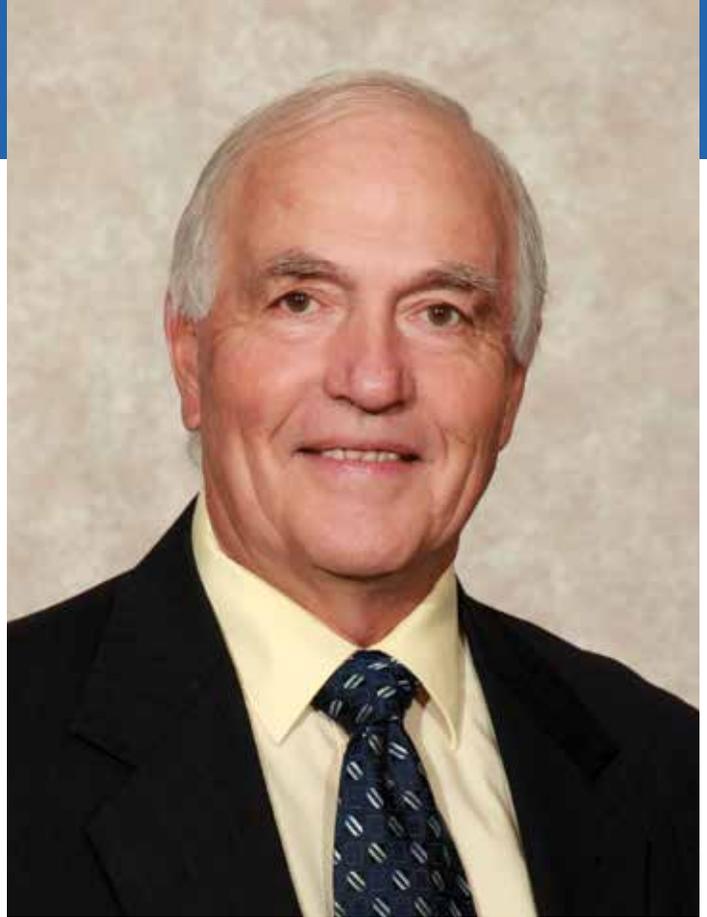
Roger's wife, Marlene, and son, Greg, were in attendance to accept the Water Wheel Award on his behalf and acknowledged how privileged Roger would have been to receive this distinct honor. "It was an honor to represent my family in receiving the Water Wheel Award on behalf of my father, and we are very proud to have been a part of the ceremony," said Greg. "Dad would have been honored, as he truly enjoyed his time on the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District Board."

John Leininger

Commodore

John Leininger, former Griggs County director, was a continual supporter of Garrison Diversion's mission to provide a reliable, high quality, and affordable water supply to benefit the people of North Dakota. He was passionate about water development and believed he could make a difference throughout the district. John served as the Griggs County director for nearly 15 years and was an active participant on the board's executive, budget and finance, recreation, and Red River Valley committees. He demonstrated his passion for developing and managing water resources by serving as Garrison Diversion's chairman and second vice chairman.

John's long-time service to Garrison Diversion and the



state of North Dakota was exceptional. He was a strong and calm leader within the water industry. As a second generation water advocate for North Dakota, John realized the importance of providing quality water to the people of North Dakota.

John was committed to facilitating unity and dialogue between the state and the Native American tribes, believing that by working together on water development, all residents of North Dakota would benefit.

His participation on Garrison Diversion's Board of Directors, along with his enthusiasm and commitment to water development, proved he was a worthy recipient of the Commodore Award.

John's daughter, Chelee, and her husband, Mark, were in attendance to accept the award on John's behalf. "On behalf of the entire Leininger family, we want to thank the North Dakota water industry for recognizing my father as a Commodore winner. It is a great honor for me to accept this award on his behalf," said Chelee. "Although he is no longer with us, we know he surely left his mark in the water community and beyond."