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For Immediate Release

45-Year Employee Honored by City

April 15, 2010

Kirkwood, Missouri: Charlie Meier began his career with the City of Kirkwood in 1964 as a meter reader with the City's Electric Department. On April 8, 2010, he was honored with a plaque, and a standing ovation from his fellow employees, for his 45 years of service to the City at a special employee service recognition luncheon.

Charlie has gone from Meter Reader to Apprentice Lineman (1st through 4th year levels) to Journeyman Lineman. In 1986, he was promoted to Foreman on the service / trouble truck.

Mark Petty, Kirkwood's Electric Director, said that the Electric Department has grown along with Charlie. "The impression people have of us reflects the image he communicates," said Petty. "He's our ambassador of good will. His positive approach to communication is irreplaceable."

Petty said Meier has trained many other Electric Department employees. "He is a really great guy to work with," said Petty. "He makes me confident about what we do. How we should operate as a department – it's embodied in him. He leads by example."

Dave Valentine, General Line Supervisor, agreed with that assessment. "Charlie is one of the most conscientious workers I have ever worked with," said Valentine. "He always wants to make sure his job is done right and that he has done his share of the work. He is a great guy and fun to be around. All the linemen look up to him, including myself. When Charlie decides to retire, it will be a bittersweet day because we will be happy for him but sad for ourselves because we won't have him here everyday to bounce questions off of and soak up his good nature. "

Charlie has no plans to retire anytime soon. Petty said Charlie's years of experience and expertise are invaluable. "He told me when I got here – 'I've forgotten more than you'll ever know.' "

Five other City employees were honored for 40 years of service each: Robert Kosyan (Police), Wayne Werner (Police), Gary Leibach (Fire), Gary Quint (Police), and Joe Miller (Electric). For a complete list of City of Kirkwood employee service recognitions, visit the City's Website at www.kirkwoodmo.org.

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