



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

John O'Connell, III | NYRWA President

I write this article remembering a true friend and a past President of the National Rural Water Association. Fred Sheldon was from the State of Washington and served as President for NRWA for two years. Fred was a friend of mine and of NYRWA. Fred passed away January 10, 2019. I, along with other NRWA Executive Board members traveled to Washington State to honor Fred.

On another note, New York Rural Water traveled to Washington, DC for the February Rally. National Rural Water organizes this Rally event to bring people from rural systems to Washington, DC, to meet with their congressional representatives, and Senators. We will be asking our New York Representatives to support Rural Water initiatives in the upcoming budget year for 2020. I know you

might be saying, what about funding for 2019. The 2019 budget has been marked up already by the House and the Senate. The staff at the National Rural Water's office in DC is pretty confident that when the shutdown reaches a deal the President will approve the funding that is designated for Rural Water.

The DC budget is hard to understand as their budget is always a year ahead and they typically vote in late February - early March on approval. That's why our Rally happens in early February. We want to bring our agenda to the forefront as Congress is getting ready to vote for the budget. Most generally, National Rural Water is the first in their door and we generally are well received. Rural Water has been very successful in the past in receiving our training and technical assistance funding. So please, if asked by Jamie Herman, our CEO, to write a letter or possibly visit DC or your Congressional Representatives District Office in the future to help relay the information of these programs that assist you in your daily responsibilities, please answer the call. 💧💧

