

Celebrating Homeownership Month *Building Communities Together*

Historic Anniversary Celebrated in Donalsonville, Georgia

Donalsonville, Georgia is hometown of the first property ever purchased using the USDA [Single Family Housing Guaranteed Loan Program](#), a landmark USDA program that greatly expanded the availability of home loan financing for rural residents. On June 6, 2016 we celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the program with ceremonies recognizing the family of Mr. David Brewer and Mrs. Gloria Brewer Floyd, the homeowners of the anniversary house; Dianne Thomas, the Georgia Rural Development specialist who underwrote the loan; and representatives First Federal Savings Bank of Southwest Georgia, the original lender, now First State Bank – Donalsonville.

We were honored to hear from Vernita Dore, Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development, who signed a proclamation of USDA's renewed commitment to the rural residents of Georgia and all of America to continue working with leaders in the housing industry, nonprofit organizations and all levels of government to increase homeownership by making USDA Rural Development's Single Family Housing Loan Guarantee Program as efficient, modern, and accessible as is possible.

Mr. Jody Redding, Regional Director, Sen. John Isakson, read the Senator's letter of appreciation for our work building communities by helping families secure the resources they need to purchase a home, and thanking the department for its commitment to the advancement of rural communities.

A host of partners and community members shared resources during the community housing networking event that followed the ceremonies. Representatives from the Department of Community Affairs, Georgia Initiative for Community Housing, Habitat for Humanity, prospective homeowners, realtors, lenders, home builders, elected officials, regional chambers of commerce, development authorities and others were there.



#USDABuildsTogether
#HomeownershipMonth