

# Albers receives first Victor Benefield Safety Award



*Carl Albers (middle) with Victor Benefield's family.*

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22, 2016 – Carl Albers, foreman at the Rome Transmission Maintenance Center, was presented with the first annual Georgia Power Transmission Victor Benefield Safety Award.

The award – named in honor of the former Rome Safety and Health Specialist Victor Benefield– was created to recognize Transmission employees, who like Benefield, show exemplary behaviors in being his or her brothers' and sisters' keeper, have proven to be a safety champion and have been a model of employee excellence.

In accepting the award at a recent Transmission Safety Advisory Board (TSAB) meeting, Albers said the award holds special meaning to him.

“This award means so much to me because Vic meant so much to me,” he said. “Vic was a huge influence on my life, both personally and professionally. I met him on the first day I went the on line crew and he taught me to be my brothers' and sisters' keeper and about Target Zero before we as a company talked about it. This award is truly what I strive for every day and Vic is an important reason why.”

Laura Buchanan, protection and control test engineer, and Seth Benefield, protection and control test engineer and Victor Benefield's son, presented the award to Albers in front of the TSAB and Benefield's family.



*Carl Albers (right) accepts the Victor Benefield Safety Award from Seth Benefield.*

“Carl was nominated for this award by his crew because he takes the time to evaluate every task for the safest

*continued*

## Albers *continued*

approach," Buchanan said. "He is not afraid to stop a job that he feels is unsafe and he shares his safety findings with others throughout the organization and community. Carl puts safety first and makes sure his crew does as well."

Seth Benefield echoed Buchanan's sentiments. "I cannot think of anyone more deserving of this award," he said. "It is truly an honor and a privilege to present this award to Carl."

The Victor Benefield Award was the brainchild of Jeffrey Poston, forestry specialist. Although Poston did not personally know Benefield, he had heard enough about Benefield's legacy to present the idea for the award to the TSAB board.

Benefield, who passed away unexpectedly in October 2014, had worked at Georgia Power for 38 years. He joined the company as a lineman in Newnan in 1983 and became a safety and health specialist in 2004.

"Victor's passion for safety, his family and his coworkers was rooted in strong faith," said Danny Lindsey, Transmission vice president. "He was a safety champion who challenged everyone around him to be better in safety. The TSAB is very proud to present this award in his name."

Nominations are open for the 2016 Victor Benefield Award and forms can be found on the [TSAB website](#).