

Storm Center renamed to honor legacy



Aaron Strickland and family.

Thursday, March 23, 2017 – After a successful 38-year career at Georgia Power, including 16 years as Georgia Power's Emergency Operations Director, Aaron Strickland is retiring. To honor his dedication and service to the company, its customers and the millions of customers who benefited under his leadership, on Tuesday, March 21, the Georgia Power Storm Center was renamed the Aaron B. Strickland Storm Center at a special event held in his honor.

The intimate event for family and friends was just a small token of appreciation and will solidify Aaron's legacy at Georgia Power.

"Aaron has been an outstanding leader and team member, and has led Georgia Power through numerous storm restoration efforts. From major hurricanes, tornados and winter weather, he has become synonymous with Georgia Power's Storm Center," said Chairman, President and CEO Paul Bowers. "When we get calls for mutual assistance, they ask for him by name because they know he will get the job done right, safely and in record time. We are so happy we were able to name the Storm Center after him and give him that lasting legacy."

Aaron began his career at Georgia Power in 1978 in Marketing and has held numerous positions within External Affairs and Distribution. As the Emergency Operations Director, Aaron has been on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week for the last 16 years; ready to respond to weather emergencies affecting both Georgia Power operations and to utilities in other states.

Aaron led nearly 400 storm response operations. Most recently, he led a 5,000-member team through the Hurricane Matthew restoration effort. Power was

quickly and safely restored to more than 338,000 customers affected by the hurricane earlier than expected.

Distribution Vice President Leslie Sibert says she could always rest easy knowing Aaron was at the helm of storm monitoring and response. "Aaron was always on it. Yes, it was his job but he also loved what he did. He was a tremendous role model for the crew and he wouldn't stop until everyone made it home safely. The teams out in the field and the men and women staffing the storm center took care of each other and loved each other like family. You don't see that every day."

Other organizations have taken notice. The Georgia Public Service Commission (PSC) formally recognized him for his leadership of the 8,000 employees who addressed service interruptions throughout the state following the 2014 ice storm. Aaron is recognized across the nation as an expert in storm center response and is sought out by other utilities, industry organizations and the Department of Energy for his expertise.

Aaron is actively involved in several community service activities, including the Wounded Warrior Project, Young Life, Habitat for Humanity and the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. While he will continue his volunteer work, Aaron says he is most excited about spending his new found free time with his wife, children and grandchildren.

"I am just so blessed. I had fun, I enjoyed it and I made some amazing friends. That will be the hardest thing about retirement," said Aaron. "There have been so many people over the years, new and old, that have impacted me and I will carry that with me forever. But my family...God has given me an abundance of love and I can't wait to soak it all in and spend time with them."

Aaron's well deserved retirement will be effective **April 1, 2017**. With his departure, Hamilton Hardin will take over as the Storm Center Director, in addition to his role as General Manager of Network Services.