

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**LIBERTY UTILITIES - EMPIRE
ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT OF JIM JOHNSTON**



JOPLIN, MO – March 5, 2018 – Mr. Jim Johnston retired from The Empire District Electric Company on December 31, 2017, following 40 years of service.

Mr. Johnston joined the Company in November 1977 as a Laborer at the Asbury Power Plant. During his employment, Johnston worked as a Beginning Plant Operator, Mechanical Maintenance Technician, Laboratory Assistant, Meter Reader, and Dispatcher 1st class, the position he held at retirement.

Mr. Johnston is a graduate of Missouri Southern State University.

Before joining the Company, Johnston worked at General Irrigation as a Welder. He also served in the U.S Marine Corps from 1970-1972.

Mr. Johnston and his wife, Irma Armenta, have four children and seven grandchildren.

Based in Joplin, Missouri, Empire District is a subsidiary of Liberty Utilities Co. and headquarters for Central Region, providing electric, natural gas, water, and wastewater service to nearly 320,000 customers across the Liberty Utilities six states. A subsidiary of the company provides fiber optic services. For more information regarding Empire District, visit www.empiredistrict.com. For more information about Liberty Utilities, visit www.libertyutilities.com.

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