

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Matthew A. Thorp, Sr.

History has been made!!!!!!

On Thursday, September 29, 2022, our President emeritus John D. O'Connell, III, officially was elected as President of the National Rural Water Association at the annual WaterPro Conference in National Harbor, Maryland. This is huge accomplishment for John and the New York Rural Water Association as well.

John is currently the longest sitting Director on the NRWA Board and has worked tirelessly for NRWA and for us here at NYRWA. It took John a lot of time and work building a coalition of people on the national board that truly changed the culture of the organization, which in turn has helped us tremendously as a whole in the industry we all love. We are now recognized nationally for our professionalism and have a seat at the table so to speak, we have a voice when it comes to funding and regulations.

John's first Presidential address was a great one, no nonsense, shooting straight and from his heart, with a strong knowledge of our industry and how we can improve what we do and the approach that is needed to do so. I personally would say he "nailed it".

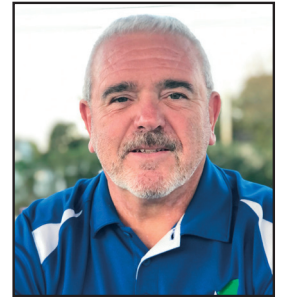
Congratulations to you John and to your family, they have been a big part of your journey. You've earned it my friend.

A thank you to immediate past president David Baird from Delaware for your leadership during the pandemic, keeping the association and the state affiliates busy doing our duties as water and wastewater professionals during trying times.

As I stated at the annual NRWA meeting and during the presidential forum, we need to publicize that we at rural water "never quit". We didn't get all the accolades that the emergency services were given, nor that of the healthcare workers, all of them deservedly so, but our jobs are just as important, if not more so, in public health.

To our membership here at NYRWA, as Fall approaches it's that time to start preparations for Winter operations.

Please be safe and may God bless all of you and your families. 💧💧💧



Matthew A. Thorp, Sr.
NYRWA President