



NEWS RELEASE

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DORR ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF RONALD G. WHITFIELD AS STATE DIRECTOR FOR FLORIDA, VIRGIN ISLANDS

February 7, 2008 -- Agriculture Under Secretary for Rural Development Thomas C. Dorr today announced the appointment of Ronald G. Whitfield as the Florida and U.S. Virgin Islands State Director for USDA Rural Development.

“Ronald Whitfield brings more than 40 years’ experience as an accomplished administrator of housing and community development programs,” Dorr said. “Florida’s rural communities will be well served by his leadership.”

A resident of Eustis, Fla., Whitfield received his Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics from Auburn University. He has worked in Florida’s USDA Rural Development offices for more than 40 years, serving in several capacities, including Assistant State Director and Acting State Director. Whitfield received the Harry Tomlinson award from the Council for Affordable Rural Housing in 1997 for his work to provide affordable housing to Florida’s rural residents.

USDA Rural Development’s mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. Rural Development has invested nearly \$91 billion since 2001 for equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. More than 1.7 million jobs have been created or saved through these investments. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA’s web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

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