



## MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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29th Senate District

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**For Immediate Release:**  
**December 2, 2005**

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### Southwest Missouri Lawmakers and Members of Electric Co-Ops Honor Troops

JEFFERSON CITY—On Tuesday, Nov. 29, southwest Missouri lawmakers and representatives from eight member-owned electric cooperatives gathered to honor U.S. military servicemen and women serving overseas. The highlight of the evening reception, held at the Wonders of Wildlife Museum and Aquarium in Springfield, Mo., was the presentation of a \$20,000 contribution to the USO, or United Services Organization, on behalf of those co-ops and area legislators.

Cheryl Laaker Hall, director of Operation USO Care Package, was on hand to receive the contribution. The money will be used to purchase care packages containing small, but much-needed items, that are sent to U.S. military personnel serving overseas by the USO. The care package program, based in Washington, D.C., began after security concerns forced the military to no longer accept shipments to “any soldier” or other anonymous recipients.

The donation was made by nine southwest Missouri electric cooperatives, on behalf of area lawmakers. Electric cooperatives are member-owned, not-for-profit utilities, which serve primarily in rural areas. Joining co-op representatives in the presentation were area state senators and representatives.

USO care packages include items such as pre-paid phone cards, disposable cameras, lip balm and other personal items. Each package costs \$25 to assemble and ship to troops. The donation presented by lawmakers and electric cooperatives Tuesday will fund 800 care packages.

Co-ops contributing to the USO included Barry, Barton County, New-Mac, Osage Valley, Ozark, Sac Osage, Southwest, White River Valley electric cooperatives and KAMO Power.

For more information about the USO’s Operation Care Package, please call 877-USO-GIVE (1-877-876-4483) or log onto [www.usocares.org](http://www.usocares.org).

-photos on following page-

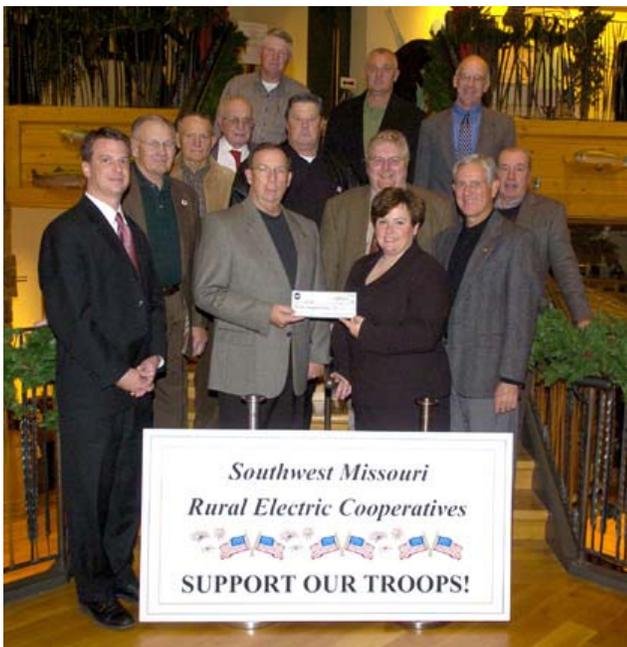
For jpeg versions of any of the following pictures, please contact Darbi Gibson at Senate Communications, 573-751-3824.



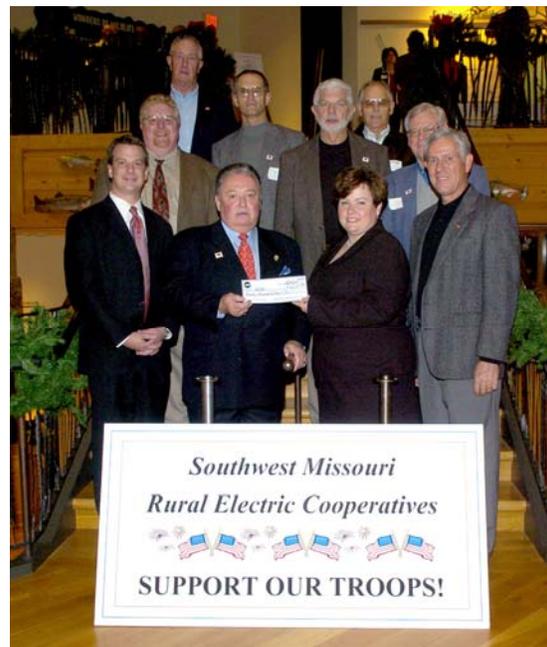
*Sen. Jack Goodman, R-Mt. Vernon, (second from the left) meets with members from Barry Electric Co-Op.*



*Sen. Jack Goodman, R-Mt. Vernon, (left) meets with members from New-Mac Electric Co-Op.*



*Sen. Jack Goodman, R-Mt. Vernon, (front left) meets with members from Ozark Electric Co-Op.*



*Sen. Jack Goodman, R-Mt. Vernon, (front left) meets with members from White River Valley Electric Co-Op.*