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### **NOAA NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE SELECTS NEW LEADER FOR CENTRAL REGION**

NOAA National Weather Service officials have named Lynn P. Maximuk to head the National Weather Service's 14-state Central Region, headquartered in Kansas City, Mo. Maximuk will officially begin his new duties April 2.

"As regional director, Lynn Maximuk will ensure the region's 38 Weather Forecast Offices, two River Forecast Centers and five Center Weather Service Units carry out the National Weather Service mission to protect lives and property," said Brig. Gen. David L. Johnson, USAF (ret.), director of NOAA's National Weather Service. "Lynn is an innovative and dynamic leader, and he's been at the forefront of the agency's modernization efforts. We are honored to have Lynn Maximuk serving in this important role as regional director."

The Overland Park, Kan., resident is a 33-year veteran of NOAA's National Weather Service. Maximuk has held a variety of forecast and management positions in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Missouri. From beginnings as a meteorologist intern at the Pittsburgh, Pa., office, Maximuk worked his way through meteorologist positions with increasing responsibility to lead forecaster and warning coordination meteorologist in field forecast offices. He also worked several years at National Weather Service Central Region headquarters.

"I'm looking forward to working once again at the regional headquarters with a staff of proven professionals as we fine tune our concept of operations," Maximuk said. "We look to build upon continuing cooperation with our emergency management and media partners, and others in the weather enterprise, in providing the best forecast and severe weather and flood warnings available anywhere in the world."

After earning his Bachelor of Science degree in Meteorology from Penn State University in May 1972, the Cleveland, Ohio, native began his Weather Service career that December at the Pittsburgh office. He continued as an intern at the Akron-Canton forecast office from May to December 1973. He moved through the forecaster ranks at the Cleveland forecast office from December 1973 to July 1989, when he was selected applied technical services meteorologist at the Kansas City regional office.

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In May 1991, Maximuk was chosen to guide the region through the Weather Service's multi-billion dollar modernization and associated restructuring. As regional transition manager, he led and coordinated agency teams in the development and implementation of budgets, staffing models, construction schedules, office consolidations and personnel realignments. During the modernization, Central Region and the Weather Service moved into the modern age of weather forecasting that employed state-of-the art radars, weather observing systems and computers to keep the public safe from severe weather and floods.

Returning to the active forecasting role, Maximuk was selected meteorologist in charge of the Kansas City Weather Forecast Office in Pleasant Hill, Mo., in December 1994. Under Maximuk's guidance, the staff played a leading role in the development of several modernization initiatives and equipment. The office also earned Department of Commerce Unit Citations for outstanding service to the public, three Department of Commerce Bronze Medals, one Silver Medal and a Gold Medal.

Maximuk also earned an individual NOAA Administrator's Award and the NOAA Diversity Spectrum Award. In May 2004, he earned the Kansas City Federal Administrator of the Year Award bestowed by The American Society for Public Administration. He has published several scholarly papers relating to National Weather Service digital forecasts and the Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS) that provides a single-point workstation for all forecast and warning operations.

The National Weather Service is part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department. NOAA is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resources. Through the emerging Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), NOAA is working with its federal partners and 60 countries to develop a global monitoring network that is as integrated as the planet it observes.

On the Web:

NOAA: <http://www.noaa.gov>

NOAA's National Weather Service: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov>

National Weather Service Central Region HQ: <http://www.crh.noaa.gov>