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AARP North Carolina Presents Dr. Althea Taylor-Jones with The Andrus Award for Community Service

RALEIGH -- Dr. Althea Taylor-Jones of Kernersville, is the recipient of the AARP North Carolina's 2018 Andrus Award, the most prestigious AARP Award for community service.

Dr. Taylor-Jones has volunteered with AARP for over 20 years, serving as an officer with the Winston-Salem AARP Chapter, on the AARP North Carolina Executive Council, and as lead volunteer for AARP in the Triad Region. She leads classroom sessions and seminars on health, finances and fraud prevention for AARP members and others in the community.

Dr. Taylor-Jones is the Immediate Past Speaker of the NC Senior Tar Heel Legislature (2015-2017). She is the first African American elected to that office since the organization was founded in 1993. She has represented Forsyth County as an alternate and delegate since 2006. She formerly served as Chairperson of the Health/Wellness/Quality of Life Committee, and currently serves as Chairperson of the Advocacy Committee.

A retired professor of Gerontology and administrator at Winston-Salem State University, she has a long list of accomplishments and awards. Some awards include the Governor's Award from the North Carolina Human Relations Commission for Outstanding Service to the Winston-Salem Community and the Betterment of Human Relations among People in Winston-Salem; The City/Community Leadership Award granted by the National Women of Achievement (NWOA); The Older Advocate Award, presented by the Southern Gerontological Society, in recognition of an individual who has devoted their retirement years to community and/or legislative advocacy on behalf of older adults.

"Dr. Taylor-Jones is a tireless advocate for older adults and exemplifies everything that AARP's founder Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus stood for," said Doug Dickerson, State Director of AARP NC. "She consistently strives to improve lives and communities by working with volunteers, elected officials and other leaders to address the specific needs of older adults and to make our communities more age-friendly. Recently, as part of AARP's "age-friendly community" initiative, Dr. Taylor-Jones worked with stakeholders in Forsyth County to identify areas of improvement that will make the county better for all ages."

Mark Hensley, AARP Associate State Director in the Triad Region who works closely with Dr. Taylor-Jones, said "As the state and region work to best meet the needs of its aging population, she has been an inspiration to me and for others, as Dr. Taylor-Jones encourages us to advocate for ourselves and others as we age."

AARP is the nation’s largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering Americans 50 and older to choose how they live as they age. With nearly 1.1 million members in North Carolina and 38 million members and offices in every state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, AARP works to strengthen communities and advocate for what matters most to families with a focus on health security, financial stability and personal fulfillment. AARP also works for individuals in the marketplace by sparking new solutions and allowing carefully chosen, high-quality products and services to carry the AARP name. As a trusted source for news and information, AARP produces the nation's largest circulation publications, AARP The Magazine and AARP Bulletin. To learn more about what AARP is doing in North Carolina, visit www.aarp.org/NC or follow @AARPNC on social media.

