

December 2025

ADVANCER

NEWSLETTER



James "J.D." Davis



Captain Odie Briscoe Jr.

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Season's Greetings from the President

Dear Members, Farmers, Landowners, Partners, and Supporters,

As we approach the end of another remarkable year, I would like to take this special opportunity to extend my warmest holiday wishes on behalf of the Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation and Arkansas Land and Farm Development Corporation. The holiday season is a time for gratitude, reflection, and celebration, and I am truly thankful for the commitment, energy, and passion that each of you brings to our vibrant community.

This year, as every year, your dedication has cultivated not only our land, but also the spirit of collaboration and resilience that defines our organization. Whether you are working the fields, stewarding family lands, collaborating on innovative projects, or supporting our mission in countless ways, you are at the heart of our success. Your efforts continue to strengthen rural communities, preserve family legacies, and ensure that future generations can have the opportunity to thrive on Arkansas soil and in our urban and rural communities.

I am proud of all we have accomplished together from expanding our outreach and educational initiatives to creating new avenues for economic prosperity and sustainable development. These strides would not be possible without your unwavering support and belief in our shared vision.

During this festive season, I hope you find moments of peace and joy with your loved ones. May the new year bring you and your families good health, happiness, and prosperity. I look forward to all that we will achieve together in the coming year, and I am confident that our collective efforts will continue to make a positive impact across Arkansas and beyond.

Thank you for being a valued part of the Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation and Arkansas Land and Farm Development Corporation family. Wishing you an incredibly happy holiday season and a wonderful 2026 new year!

With heartfelt appreciation,

Calvin R. King, Sr

President

Arkansas Land and Community Development

Talk of the Land

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services: Empowering Communities and Landowners Across America

How NRCS Programs Benefit Rural and Urban Areas,
Farmers, and Landowners

The Role of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is a pivotal agency dedicated to helping people help the land. Established in 1935, NRCS has evolved into a leader in natural resource conservation, supporting both rural and urban communities, farmers, and landowners across the nation.

NRCS offers a wide array of programs and services tailored to conserve, maintain, and improve America's natural resources. Its services address soil health, water quality, air quality, wildlife habitat, and energy efficiency. Whether you are a rural farmer, an urban landowner, or a community leader, NRCS provides expert technical assistance and financial support to achieve sustainable land management goals.

Economically, these efforts lower production costs, increase farm profitability, and support vibrant rural and urban economies.

NRCS operates through a network of local field offices, ensuring that services are accessible to all. Community members, farmers, and landowners are encouraged to visit their local NRCS office or explore the agency's website to learn about available programs and how to participate.

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service stands as a trusted partner for sustainable land stewardship. By offering comprehensive support to both rural and urban communities, farmers, and landowners, NRCS ensures that America's natural resources are protected and enhanced for generations to come.

Key Programs and Initiatives

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP): Provides financial and technical help to implement conservation practices that improve soil, water, and air quality.
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP): Rewards producers for maintaining and enhancing conservation efforts, encouraging continuous improvement.
- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP): Helps landowners protect and restore agricultural lands and wetlands, preserving them for future generations.
- Technical Assistance: NRCS specialists offer personalized guidance on soil health, erosion control, nutrient management, and more, ensuring the best conservation outcomes for each unique property.
- Urban Conservation: NRCS extends its expertise to cities and towns, supporting community gardens, urban farms, green infrastructure, and stormwater management projects.

Rural Communities: Farmers and ranchers benefit from increased crop yields, improved water management, and reduced input costs. Conservation programs help sustain rural economies by supporting viable farming operations and protecting the land for future use.

Urban Communities: NRCS plays a growing role in urban areas, fostering greener cities through tree planting, soil health initiatives, and water conservation. Urban farmers and community gardeners can access resources to improve local food production, manage stormwater, and reduce heat island effects.

NRCS is committed to working one-on-one with farmers and landowners, recognizing that each operation is unique. Through voluntary participation, landowners can access cost-sharing programs, conservation planning, and technical expertise. These services not only enhance productivity but also increase land value and resilience to climate variability.

The work of NRCS leads to healthier soils, cleaner water, and more resilient landscapes. Conservation practices reduce erosion, protect wildlife habitats, and improve air quality.



A Tribute to James Darnell Davis (J.D.): A Legacy Rooted in Curiosity, Dedication, and Service

In Remembrance and Appreciation as Vice President of Arkansas Land and Farm Development Corporation and Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation

Remembering James Darnell Davis (J.D.)

James Darnell Davis, affectionately known as J.D., was born in the heart of Eastern Arkansas, St. Francis County, near Forrest City on the historic Gram Farm. From humble beginnings, J.D. led a life marked by exceptional curiosity, unyielding discipline, and a passion for lifelong learning.

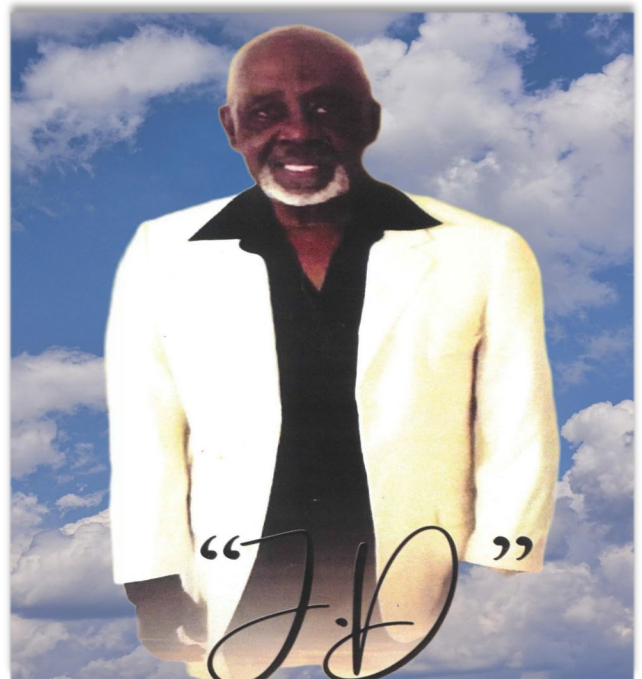
His story is one of perseverance, achievement, and a deep commitment to uplifting others.

Roots in Rural Arkansas

Growing up in a sharecropping family, J.D. balanced his early education with the demanding work of the fields. Even as a child, he helped his family with the rigors of farm life, picking cotton and tending to crops, while never wavering in his dedication to academic pursuits. His remarkable sense of responsibility and intellect was evident to all who knew him.

After graduating from Lincoln High School, J.D. continued to chase his dreams by enrolling at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. There, he earned a degree in mathematics, a testament to his intellectual drive and determination. Not content with resting on his educational achievements, J.D. set his sights even higher and moved to Los Angeles, California, where he pursued and completed a master's degree in aerospace engineering from the University of Southern California (USC).

J.D.'s professional career stands as a beacon of inspiration in the world of aerospace technology. His tenure with Automated Space Group (ASG) and TRW placed him at the forefront of innovative scientific developments. He was a key contributor to the design and realization of the Hubble Space Telescope, one of humanity's greatest scientific instruments. J.D. also played an instrumental role in the development of the Space Station, which continues to orbit the Earth, broadening our understanding of the universe.



Returning Home: A New Chapter in Agriculture and Community Development

Following a distinguished career in aerospace, J.D. returned to his roots in Forrest City, Arkansas, alongside his beloved wife, Rosia. The couple purchased the very farm where J.D. had been born, embarking on a new adventure as family farmers. Together, they cultivated soybeans, milo, and winter wheat, continuing the agricultural legacy of the land.

J.D.'s vision extended far beyond his own family farm operation acreage. As Vice-President of both the Arkansas Land and Farm Development Corporation and the Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation, he tirelessly advocated for underserved farmers and landowners. He was instrumental in strategic planning, housing and resource development, and the delivery of technical assistance programs.



His efforts were pivotal in supporting youth education, agricultural training, and entrepreneurship, ensuring new generations would carry forward the torch of innovation and stewardship. Through his leadership and advocacy, James Davis championed programs, partnerships, and initiatives that have had a lasting positive impact on economic opportunity, land ownership, and community development.

A Legacy

James Darnell Davis's life journey from the cotton fields of Arkansas to the laboratories of Los Angeles, and back again to his family farm serves as an enduring testament to the power of discipline, curiosity, and service. James Davis was known for his integrity, wisdom, and compassion, inspiring trust and respect among colleagues, partners, and the many individuals and families whose lives he touched. His work changed the trajectories of both space exploration and rural community development. J.D.'s legacy lives on in the countless lives he touched and the communities he uplifted, reminding us of all of the extraordinary potential that lies within a life devoted to learning, innovation, and giving back.

Gone from our presence but never from our hearts.

The Board of Directors and Staff

Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation

Arkansas Land and Farm Development Corporation

Odie Sunny Briscoe, Jr.: A Life of Distinguished Service and Achievement

From Rural Arkansas to the Skies: The Inspiring Journey of a Coast

Guard Commander and Airline Captain

Odie Sunny Briscoe, Jr. was born on April 5, 1952, in Fargo, Arkansas. As the tenth child in a family of fourteen, Briscoe learned the values of perseverance and teamwork from an early age. Growing up in a bustling household in rural Arkansas, he developed a powerful sense of responsibility and community that would shape his future endeavors.

Briscoe's academic journey led him to the University of Central Arkansas (UCA), where he pursued a degree in Business Administration. His dedication and determination propelled him through his studies, culminating in his graduation and setting the stage for a remarkable career of service and leadership.

After completing his degree, Odie Sunny Briscoe, Jr. enlisted in the United States Coast Guard. His commitment to serving his country was evident from the start, as he quickly rose through the ranks to become a Commander. Over the course of a distinguished thirty (30) year career, Briscoe served with unwavering passion and integrity. He was known among his peers for his leadership, professionalism, and devotion to duty. His thirty years of service stand as a testament to his dedication and the respect he earned from colleagues and subordinates alike.

Upon retiring from the Coast Guard, Commander Briscoe embarked on a new career path as a commercial airline pilot. His disciplined approach and exceptional skills made him a natural fit for the aviation industry. He achieved the rank of captain with both Continental Airlines and United Airlines, piloting commercial aircraft and ensuring the safety of thousands of passengers over the years. Briscoe's transition from military to civilian aviation displayed his adaptability and continued commitment to excellence.

Odie Sunny Briscoe, Jr.'s life is a shining example of dedication, leadership, and service. From his humble beginnings in Fargo, Arkansas, to commanding Coast Guard vessels and piloting commercial airliners, Briscoe's journey inspires all who learn of it. His legacy is marked not only by his professional achievements, but also by the impact he had on those around his family, colleagues, and the countless individuals whose lives he touched throughout his extraordinary career.

The Season is for Happiness, Joy, and Hope

Embracing the Heartwarming Spirit of the Holidays

As the days grow shorter and the air turns crisp, something magical begins to stir in our hearts. The holiday season arrives with soft twinkling lights, the scent of pine, and a gentle reminder that this is a time for happiness, joy, and hope.

For many of us, this season sparks a warm glow of nostalgia. Childhood memories of gathering around the Christmas tree with family, sharing laughter with neighbors, and exchanging handmade cards with friends come rushing back. Whether in bustling city neighborhoods or quiet country towns, these moments remind us of the power of togetherness. We remember singing carols, baking cookies, and the simple delight of waking up to a world dusted with snow. These traditions, big and small, have brought communities closer and created bonds that last a lifetime.

Every December, our homes, parks, and streets transform into vibrant displays of color and light. In rural communities, porch railings twinkle with string lights, and barns glow with festive wreaths. City parks sparkle with illuminated trees, and window displays invite passersby to stop and smile. Walking through these decorated spaces fills us with happiness and wonder. It is in these moments watching children's faces light up at a dazzling display or sharing hot cocoa with a friend under glowing streetlamps that we see the beauty of the season all around us.

As we take in these joyful sights and recall treasured memories, the season encourages us to pause and appreciate what we have right now. Being surrounded by loved ones, reaching out to old friends, or simply enjoying a peaceful evening at home are all blessings to be cherished. In the rush of daily life, the holidays remind us to find gratitude in small moments a kind word, a shared smile, or a thoughtful gesture. Embracing joy and thankfulness brings us closer and fills our hearts with warmth.

The happiness and joy we feel now are not just for the present they inspire hope for brighter days ahead. When we open our hearts to others, we help build stronger, more caring communities. Acts of kindness, generosity, and connection plant seeds of hope that can grow throughout the year. By holding onto joy and sharing it freely, we remind ourselves and each other that no matter what challenges we face, hope is always within reach.

As the holiday lights shine and festive songs fill the air, let us remember the true spirit of the season. Cherish your happy memories, celebrate with family and friends, and take a moment to appreciate the beauty around you. Share your joyful heart with others whether through a warm greeting, a homemade treat, or a helping hand. Together, our happiness, joy, and hope can make this season truly special for everyone.

This is also a time when generosity flourishes, as people look for ways to help those in need and make a positive impact in their communities. Make a meaningful difference and spread happiness far beyond our immediate circles.

Happy Holidays

from

Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation and Arkansas Land and Farm
Development Corporation





ALFDC/ALCDC End of Year Tax- Deductible Donation Form

When you donate to Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation, you are joining the fight to address the needs of our under-served rural and urban communities.

If you wish to support our work, you can give a tax-deductible year end donation to ALFDC/ALCDC, complete the donation form or go to our website at <https://www.arlcde.org/tax-deductible-donation>.

Name:

Mailing Address:

Email (optional):

Donate in the name of:

Enter the amount you wish to donate (\$):

ALFDC/ALCDC Information Survey for Service

We are requesting that you complete the following survey and provide the requested information. This will give us added options for providing you with valuable service during these challenging times.

Name: _____ Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
County: _____

Mobile Phone Number: _____ Home Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Is your phone a landline or a mobile? Landline _____

Mobile _____

Do you have access to the internet? Yes _____ No _____

Please check yes or no to all the following that apply:

Landowner: Yes _____ No: _____ Heir Property Interest Holder: Yes: _____ No: _____

Row Crop Farmer: Yes: _____ No: _____ Gardner: Yes: _____ No: _____ Small Farmer: Yes: _____ No: _____

Vegetable Farmer: Yes: _____ No: _____ Rancher (Livestock Operation): Yes: _____ No: _____

Small Business Owner: Yes: _____ No: _____ Veteran: Yes: _____ No: _____ New/Beginning Farmer: Yes: _____ No: _____

Are you presently receiving any service from USDA? Yes: _____ No: _____

If so, which ones apply? _____ National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

_____ Farm Service Agency (FSA) _____ Rural Development (RD) _____ Forestry _____ Other

Do you have any conservation program service contracts? Yes: _____ No: _____

If you are an heir or a joint interest holder of land (farm, ranch, or woodland), has this property received any USDA program service? Yes: _____ No: _____

Does your property of interest have a Farm # assigned by USDA Farm Service Agency? Yes: _____ No: _____

Would you desire ALCDC to assist you with attaining a farm # from USDA to qualify you for additional USDA assistance? Yes: _____ No: _____

Please mail the information provided in the survey to:

Mary Harris
PO Box 743
Brinkley, Arkansas 72021



ALFDC/ALCDC Partnership Membership

Renewal From

October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2026

_____ Individual Membership \$25.00 _____ Partnership Membership \$40.00

_____ Organization Membership \$200.00

Check one of the following:

_____ Renewal Membership _____ New Membership _____ Contribution to Organization \$ _____

Total Amount Paid: \$ _____

Member Benefits

Advocacy and Public Relations -ALCDC/ALFDC participates in federal and state hearing sessions that focus on policy development for its members, farmers, youth, and rural and urban residents.

Member Opportunities -ALCDC/ALFDC offers leadership opportunities within the organization for our youth, farmers, and rural and urban residents. As a member you will have the opportunity to serve on advisory committees, serve a volunteer and form local volunteer working groups in support of the organization's service delivery program.

Marketing Opportunities -ALCDC/ALFDC offers cooperative marketing opportunities for rural and urban farmers, and businesses. As a member, we also offer the opportunity to present and set up an exhibition during our Regional Meetings and Annual Conferences, along with facility rental discounts.

Access to Housing, Farming, and Youth Services -ALCDC/ALFDC offers rural and urban residents technical support and training for access to affordable housing, homeownership education, business development, technical assistance and support in accessing farm financial resources for conservation practices, operating expense, youth leadership development, education enrichment, and workforce readiness.

Information and Communication -ALCDC/ALFDC members can communicate with an ALCDC representative via phone or website concerning their farming, housing, business and youth service's needs. Members receive ALCDC updates and news through our quarterly newsletters and weekly e-letters and website.

Name: _____

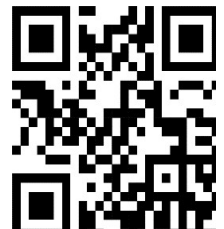
Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone Number: _____ **Email:** _____

**Please return your application and tax-deductible contribution to:
ALCDC/ALFDC Membership P.O. Box743 Brinkley, AR 72021**

ALCDC/ALFDC programs and services are available without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, or familial status. On your compatible Android phone, Smart phone, or tablet-open the built-in camera app. Point the camera at the QR code. Tap the banner that appears on your Android phone, Smart phone, or tablet to join or renew membership.





P.O. Box 907
Brinkley, AR72021

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ABOUT THE ADVANCER

The Advancer is a publication of the Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation (ALCDC) printed quarterly and circulated as a public service and communication Resources for our membership and constituents. The Advancer publication reaches a broad range of organizations and residents throughout the Delta and the United States

The Advancer reflects the nature of our work-supplying self-help opportunities and support services to our farmers and others of limited Resources in our forty-two (42) county service area. ALCDC is committed to helping people become more productive and self-sufficient. We appreciate your comments and suggestions. Direct all comments and inquiries about this publication by phone to (870) 734-3005 or e-mail us at alcldc1934@yahoo.com.

If your mailing address is not correct, contact Mary Harris at (870) 734-3005.

ALCDC STAFF

Dr. Calvin R. King Sr. – President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
LaShica Miller–Vice-President and Chief Financial Operation Officer(CFOO)
Janie Williams – Vice-President of Programs and Policy
Larry Lofton – Vice President of ALFDC, Ag. Farm Division Director
Barbara Erby–Director of Public Relations Marketing Administrative Service
Michael Tucker – Farm Finance Advisor
Ashley Crockett – Housing Director, Farm Advisor Specialist
Mary Harris – Office Manager, Farm Admin Asst.
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Endia Rapier – Accounts Receivable, Administrative Assistant

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Ashley Crockett-McNeil Apartments Phase I and II, Crawfordsville, AR, Earle Duplex's,
Pinewood Apartment Development, Brinkley, AR
Keisha Caffey (Resident Manager)-Meadowbrook, Marianna, West Helena/Helena
Jenifer Jones (Resident Manager) Forrest City and Wynne

ALCDC MISSION



The mission of ALCDC is to supply advocacy outreach, technical aid, and training to limited Resources small farmers and all rural residents to alleviate poverty, enhance sustainable farming and strengthen communities' economic sustainability and workforce readiness.

ALCDC services and programs are available without regard to age, race, religion, gender, or physical handicap.

For Additional Information
Phone (870) 734-3005

Visit Our Website

www.arlcldc.org