



TIM WEBB

Honor Flight

Save the date

Sept. 16, 2017

*Join the
"Welcome Home"
Celebration*

Blue Grass Airport

9 p.m.

Our offices will be closed Sept. 4, 2017 for the holiday.

Message from the President

Celebrating Our Local Heroes

Typically, we think of heroes as people who have shown certain noble qualities or performed courageous acts. Without a doubt, the men and women who have served our country fall into the hero category.

For the past six years, we have had the privilege of sponsoring local veterans and heroes on an Honor Flight. The sole mission of this flight is to transport our heroes to Washington, D.C., to visit their respective memorials and reflect upon their service, sacrifices, and memories. Every service person, regardless of branch, deserves a first-class "thank you" and "welcome home" and that is exactly what Honor Flight does.

Last year, Mr. Richard Peters of Nicholasville and Mr. Noel Phillips

of Cynthiana represented Blue Grass Energy on what has become an annual event. In the rest of this edition, you will see photos and read about what makes this an opportunity of a lifetime for these veterans.

On Saturday, September 16, Honor Flight 2017 will fly another mission with 70 Kentucky heroes aboard. This is the seventh year we've sponsored Honor Flight, and this year Blue Grass Energy is sponsoring Mr. Ben Kurtz of Lexington, who



Michael I. Williams
President & CEO

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Local veterans get heroes' welcome

On September 16, Blue Grass Energy and Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives will sponsor their seventh Honor Flight.

You are invited to join us at the Welcome Home Celebration at Blue Grass Airport on Saturday, Sept. 16 at approximately 9 p.m.

Here's a recap of our 2016 event:

Hundreds of patriotic, flag-waving citizens gave two local veterans, and 41 other Kentucky veterans, a welcome home on Saturday, August 27, 2016, that they will never forget.

Richard Peters of Nicholasville and Noel Phillips of Cynthiana were among the 43 war veterans who traveled from Lexington to Washington, D.C., as part of the Honor Flight. Both Mr. Peters and Mr. Phillips traveled with other Kentucky veterans from World War II, the Korean War, and Vietnam War for the one-day tour of war memorials erected in their honor in our nation's capital.

Mr. Peters and Mr. Phillips represented Blue Grass Energy,

which sponsored their all-expense paid trip.

"Of the memorials we saw, I was most impressed with the Korean War Memorial," says Mr. Peters. "I lost a very dear friend in that war. All the memorials are really something to see. Every American should have the opportunity to see them."

Mr. Phillips was chosen from the delegation to assist in laying the wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery. "That was one of the highlights of the trip for me," comments Mr. Phillips.

Last year was the sixth year Blue Grass Energy and Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives sponsored an Honor Flight, and it was the first year of partnering with Honor Flight Kentucky, which was founded in December 2015. Honor Flight Kentucky is a new chapter of the national Honor Flight network.

"We owe both Mr. Peters and Mr. Phillips, along with the other heroes from Kentucky, so much," says Barry Drury, Blue Grass Energy's vice president of Member Services. "This

is the greatest generation, and it was unbelievable how they were cheered and greeted everywhere they went in Washington."

The veterans flew from Lexington's Blue Grass Airport to Reagan National Airport in Washington, D.C., where soldiers and citizens clapped loudly before they boarded two buses for a full day of honors and sightseeing. They visited the World War II and Korean War memorials on the National Mall.

In Arlington, Va., the group toured the Marine Corps War Memorial, saw the Air Force Memorial, and watched the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery.

The response at each memorial was overwhelming. Visitors surrounded the veterans. Children and adults alike shook their hands, took photos, and waved flags. Just before the return flight to Lexington, the veterans were treated to a bit of nostalgia, as they experienced "mail call," just as they had when they were young servicemen.



Mr. Noel Phillips, Cynthiana, at the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.



Mr. Richard Peters, Nicholasville, at the World War II Memorial in 2016.

To further honor this year's Honor Flight participants, Blue Grass Energy helped to organize a special welcome for their return. Families, friends, and supporters packed the terminal at Blue Grass Airport to welcome them home.

"Supporting and volunteering with programs like Honor Flight is just part of fulfilling our cooperative purpose of making life better, the cooperative way," comments Drury. "It was our privilege to sponsor the veterans who flew on our sixth Honor Flight."

On Saturday, Sept. 16, Blue Grass Energy will sponsor **Mr. Ben Kurtz** of Lexington, who served in the Korean War, and **Mr. Darrell Waterfill** of Harrodsburg, who served in the Vietnam War. Follow *Honor Flight sponsored by Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives* on Facebook for current updates.



Mr. Noel Phillips talks to a young soldier on the 2016 Honor Flight.



Mr. Richard Peters, left, and Mr. Noel Phillips, read cards and letters from family, friends, and other veteran supporters during Mail Call on the 2016 Honor Flight.

Join us as we
welcome home
our veterans this year
Blue Grass Airport
September 16
9 p.m.



Blue Grass Energy employees and their families come out to support the veterans and to welcome them home at the Blue Grass Airport in Lexington.

How to reach us

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as a service to our members.

Rachel Settles, Editor



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.



This institution is an equal
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President's message (continued)

served in the Korean War, and Mr. Darrell Waterfill of Harrodsburg, who served in the Vietnam War.

I am personally inviting you, your family, and your friends to support this year's mission by being there when we welcome the 2017 group home. The veterans will land at Lexington's Blue Grass Airport at around 9 p.m. on September 16, and we hope you will help us thank them for their service. Follow *Honor Flight sponsored by Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives* on Facebook for current updates.

Each year, Blue Grass Energy chooses a charity to work with for the year. We partner with a local nonprofit organization that benefits the communities in which we live and serve. Our fundraising efforts for the entire year go to that cause. This year, we are partnering with Make-A-Wish. We are excited about the opportunity of making wishes come true for some of our youngest members.

Brooklyn, 12

I want a puppy.

MAKE-A-WISH®



Brooklyn holds her first puppy, Audrey.



Brooklyn introduces Audrey to her family.

Brooklyn, age 12, is battling a complex genetic condition and COPD. Brooklyn has never had a dog of her own. She developed a strong bond with a therapy dog during the course of her treatment. She wished to have a puppy of her own because she missed the companionship of a dog after her canine therapy ended.

Brooklyn received her wish on May 16. She attended an event where she was surprised to meet her new labradoodle, which she named Audrey.

To help wishes come true, visit oki.wish.org.