

Honor Flight was a celebration

Mike “Hoss” Cartwright of Frankfort and Woody Sparks of Nicholasville, along with 70 other Kentucky veterans, received a hero’s welcome home the night of September 21, 2019, from patriotic, flag-waving citizens who filled the entire terminal at Lexington’s Blue Grass Airport.

The veterans participated in a one-day tour of war memorials in the nation’s capital. This was the ninth Honor Flight sponsored by

Blue Grass Energy and Kentucky’s Touchstone Energy Cooperatives. The mission was coordinated by Winchester-based Honor Flight Kentucky.

When asked about his trip, Cartwright, an Air Force veteran who served during the Vietnam War, responded, “The day was perfect. We were treated like royalty.”

Sparks had a similar response. “Awesome! Awesome is the only word that fits.”

Following an early-morning flight from Lexington, the group was greeted at Reagan Washington National Airport by a cheering crowd and a U.S. Military Academy chorus serenading them with patriotic songs. A police escort then guided the group’s buses to stops that included the Air Force Memorial, Women in Military Service for America Memorial and the Marine Corps War Memorial.

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Blue Grass Energy friends and family gather to greet the veterans upon their return to Blue Grass Airport. Photo: Joe Settles

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Rachel Settles, Editor



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provider and employer.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We're here to help

Blue Grass Energy focuses on making life better, the cooperative way for our members. With the many challenges we've faced the last few months, I'd like to share some options we offer that may help you manage your energy.

With school out and children home in the summer, it is normal for energy usage to increase; but we all know this has been an unusual season. Students started staying home in March and much of the workforce did, too. With so many people working and spending more time at home, some members are using more electricity.

Understanding how your home is using energy can help you make sound decisions on energy usage, new appliance purchases and home improvements. Our online home energy analysis (also known as BillingInsights), available at bgenergy.com, is one of the best ways to measure how your home consumes energy.

Another great tool we offer is our smartphone app. This handy app has proven to be helpful for nearly 8,000 members each month and is like having your own personal member services representative. One feature of the app is usage alerts—you can receive notifications of your energy usage each day. From reporting an outage to making a payment, you can conduct business with us anytime.

Prepay is another option we offer. It is intended to assist in budgeting your monthly energy costs. Prepay lets you know how much energy you use daily. This keeps you in tune to your normal usage. If your energy usage fluctuates, you should be quickly aware. Prepay users pay for electricity before it is used and receive daily information on balances to help you know when to make a deposit into your prepaid account. It is also a helpful tool to manage accumulated account balances.

As your trusted source for energy information, we're here to help. For more information on these, and any of our other programs, let us know. We're only one click or phone call away.

By President/CEO
Michael I. Williams



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At the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery, the group watched the changing of the guard and participated in an emotional wreath-laying ceremony.

Sparks got a memorable opportunity. “I was asked to participate in the changing of the guard ceremony. That was something special,” he commented.

The Honor Flight participants also visited memorials dedicated to the veterans from the Korean War

and the Vietnam War. Throughout the day, the veterans were greeted with smiles, photo requests and thanks for their service.

A homecoming reception, which Blue Grass Energy helped coordinate, capped off the jam-packed day of activities. Led by a bagpipe band, returning veterans paraded through the Lexington airport terminal as family and friends clapped and shouted welcomes, waved flags and shook their hands.



Veteran Mike “Hoss” Cartwright and his daughter Helen, who served as guardian, enjoy the event-packed day.



Veteran Woody Sparks participates in the wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington.

“I couldn’t believe the welcome we got in Washington, D.C., and again in Lexington when we got back. What a blessing to have had this honorable experience,” remarked Cartwright.

Due to COVID-19, we have made the difficult to decision, along with other Kentucky Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, to cancel our 2020 sponsored Honor Flight. We look forward to continuing our Honor Flight support in 2021. Thank you to all those who’ve served and continue to serve our nation.



Honor Flight 2019 veterans are greeted at the Welcome Home Ceremony at Blue Grass Airport. Photos: Tim Webb

WHAT'S ON THAT POLE?

Have you ever wondered what's on an electric utility pole and how it is used to get your power to you? Knowing what equipment is on a pole and what each piece does can help protect you and your family.

This illustration shows the basic equipment found on electric utility poles. The equipment varies according to the location and the service they provide.

PRIMARY WIRES

Primary wires carry 7,200 volts of electricity from a substation. That voltage is 60 times higher than the voltage that runs through your home's electrical outlets!

SURGE ARRESTORS

These protect the transformer from lightning strikes.

NEUTRAL WIRE

The neutral wire acts as a line back to the substation and is tied to the ground, balancing the electricity on the system.

SECONDARY SERVICE DROP

Carries 120/240-volts of electricity to consumers' homes. It has two "hot" wires from the transformer and a bare "neutral" wire that's connected to the ground wire on the pole.

GROUND WIRE

The ground wire connects to the neutral wire to complete the circuit inside the transformer. It also directs electricity from lightning safely into the earth.

TELEPHONE, CABLE TV, AND FIBER WIRES

These are typically the lowest wires on the pole.

INSULATORS

Insulators prevent energized wires from contacting each other or the pole.

GUY WIRE

Guy wires are for structural support of the pole. Kids should not play on these wires. Always be careful when mowing or driving close to them.



NEVER NAIL POSTERS OR OTHER ITEMS TO UTILITY POLES. THESE CREATE A SAFETY HAZARD FOR LINEMEN.

Original illustration by Erin Binkley

Our offices will be closed Friday, July 3, for Independence Day.