JULY 2020

Making life better, the cooperative way

Honor Flight was a celebration

ike "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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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We're here to help

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



Veteran Mike "Hoss" Cartwright and his daughter Helen, who served as guardian, enjoy the eventpacked day.

"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.



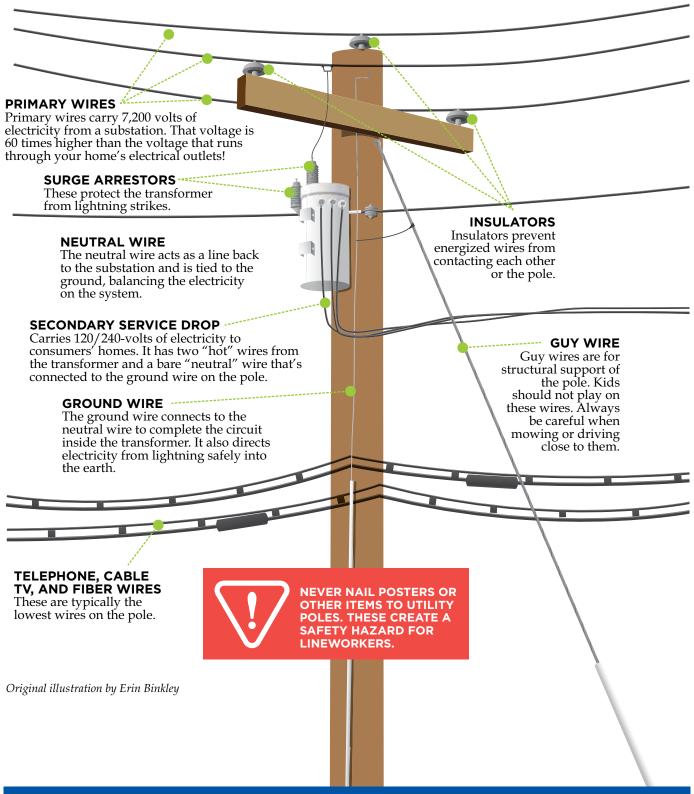


Honor Flight 2019 veterans are greeted at the Welcome Home Ceremony at Blue Grass Airport. Photos: Tim Webb

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.



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