

NOVEMBER 2023

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Local heroes return from Honor Flight 2023

The Honor Flight sponsored by Blue Grass Energy and Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives returned to a rousing welcome home ceremony at Blue Grass Airport on Sept. 16 after a full day of touring Washington, D.C. The flight transported 66 Kentucky veterans to see their memorials on the National Mall.

This is the 12th year the cooperatives have sponsored an Honor Flight. Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives began working with Honor Flight in 2010 to honor Kentucky's veterans.

This flight carried one World War II veteran, eight Korean War veterans and two women veterans who were inducted into the Military Women's Memorial during the trip. The other veterans served during the Vietnam War, and the group included two Purple Heart recipients.

Blue Grass Energy sponsored Omer Cowherd Jr. of Salvisa and John Foley of Lexington on this year's Honor Flight.

"A highlight of the day for me was witnessing the changing of the guard at Arlington National Cemetery with my son," says Cowherd. His son, Omer Cowherd III, accompanied his dad on the trip as his guardian. Another special memory of the day for Cowherd was their plane receiving a water



Above, Honor Flight veteran John Foley at the WWII memorial. Right, Omer Cowherd Jr. and his son are greeted at the welcome home ceremony at Blue Grass Airport. Photos: Tim Webb

cannon salute when they landed in D.C. "I was surprised at that," he says. "Everything was first class. The whole day was really special."

Foley, who served in the Marine Corps, had similar thoughts on their Honor Flight. "My son, Brandon Foley, also a Marine Corps veteran, was my guardian for the day. It really meant a lot to me to visit the Marine Corp War Memorial with him. It was very



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**PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY BLUE GRASS ENERGY
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Denise Myers, Editor



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

November is a month of celebrations

As the leaves fall and the temperatures drop, November ushers in the beginning of the holiday season. It's a time when we gather with loved ones and express gratitude during Thanksgiving. It's also an opportune time to recognize our veterans.

Veterans Day is celebrated on Nov. 11, and it is a day dedicated to honoring the men and women who have served in the armed forces. As an electric cooperative, we recognize the profound sacrifices and unwavering dedication of our veterans, and we salute them for their bravery, resilience and service.

That is why we sponsor events like our annual Honor Flight. In this issue, you will read about our most recent flight on Sept. 16. We had the privilege of sponsoring veterans Omer Cowherd Jr. of Salvisa and John Foley of Lexington on the trip.

Most of us will also celebrate Thanksgiving later this month. This particular holiday is a powerful reminder that even during life's challenges, there is much for which we can be grateful. All of us at your electric cooperative are immensely thankful for the privilege of serving you. Your trust in us as your source for power allows us to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy that connects and empowers our communities.

On behalf of everyone at Blue Grass Energy, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to our members and to our veterans. We hope all of you enjoy this season of thanks.

*By President/CEO
Michael I. Williams*





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special,” says Foley. “This Honor Flight has made a difference in my life.”

“It’s a privilege to be able to fly these veterans to their memorials, and it’s an opportunity to repay them in some small way for their service to our nation and our community,” says Mike Williams, Blue Grass Energy president

& CEO. “Honor Flight is a significant part of Blue Grass Energy’s commitment to our local communities.”

As in years past, veterans flew from Lexington to Reagan National Airport in Washington, D.C., where they boarded three buses for a full day of honors and sightseeing.

The day included viewing the

Cowherd is welcomed home by Blue Grass Energy employees and their families. Photo: Tim Webb

changing of the guard ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery. Kentucky veterans also participated in a wreath-laying service at the tomb.

Learn more at www.honorflightky.org.

Stay in the know

At Blue Grass Energy, we constantly strive to improve our operational efficiency so we can provide the most reliable electric service possible for our members.

We rely on data for nearly every aspect of our operations, which is why we need your help. By making sure we have your most accurate and complete contact information, we can continue to provide the highest level of service that you expect and deserve. Accurate information enables us to improve customer service and enhance communications for reporting and repairing outages.

Up-to-date contact information can potentially speed up the power restoration process during an outage. For example, the phone number you provide is linked to your service address

and to our outage management system. This means when you call to report an outage, our system recognizes your phone number and matches it with your account location. Accurate information helps our outage management system predict the location and possible cause of an outage, making it easier for our crews to correct the problem.

While we always do our best to maintain service, we occasionally plan outages to update, repair or replace equipment. In these instances, we can provide advance notification to affected members through automated phone messages, email or push notifications from our app if we have your updated contact information.

Many of you have been members of the co-op for years, and it’s likely that

your account information hasn’t been updated for some time. We recognize that many members now use a cell phone as their primary phone service, and we might not have that number in our system.

Please know that in providing your contact information to us, we will never share this information with any third parties. It is only used by Blue Grass Energy to send important information to you. Please take a moment to confirm or update your contact information by logging into your member portal at bgenergy.com or contacting a Member Service Representative at (888) 546-4243. By doing so, you help us improve service and efficiency so we can better serve you and all members of the co-op.

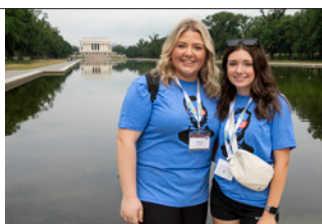
HELP US HELP OTHERS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

This holiday season, we are excited to announce our new holiday campaign called The Power of Giving. Our charity partners for 2023 are CASA organizations throughout our service area. These amazing agencies make life better for so many abused and neglected children right here in the Bluegrass.

Our partners have given us a wish list of items that will benefit their work in different ways. Some items are directly for the children. Other items will help them keep money in their budget instead of buying necessities to keep the office running.

For the month of December, please consider helping us help CASA by donating any of the following to one of our four local offices:

- Cash
- Build-A-Bear gift cards
- Gloves
- Socks
- Hats
- Coloring books
- Hair accessories
- Journals
- Winter clothing
- Toys
- Facial tissues
- Disinfecting wipes
- Paper towels
- Squishmallows



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PHOTOS: TIM WEBB

High school juniors apply by January 31!

Learn more at bgenergy.com, under "Our Community" tab.

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