

Honor Flight veterans received heroes' welcome

Donald Brady of Berea and Kenneth Simpson of Cynthiana met 66 other Kentucky veterans at Blue Grass Airport early on the morning of September 22, 2018, all participating in a 15-hour Honor Flight.

Honor Flight takes veterans of World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War on a one-day trip to Washington, D.C., to visit memorials erected to honor their service and sacrifices. Brady and Simpson, both Vietnam veterans and members of Blue Grass Energy, represented the co-op, which helped sponsor the all-expense-paid trip.

Representing 34 Kentucky counties, the Honor Flight veterans included 11 from World War II, 24 from the Korean War and 33 from the Vietnam War.

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.

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. The

Honor Flight participants also visited memorials dedicated to the veterans of World War II, Korean and Vietnam Wars. Throughout the day, the veterans were greeted with smiles, photo requests and thanks for their service.

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From left, Luke Makowski, guardian; Donald Brady, veteran; Kenneth L. Simpson, veteran; and his son and guardian Kenneth M. Simpson in front of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. Photo: Tim Webb

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Rachel Settles, Editor



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy Independence Day

This month, America marks 243 years since our Founding Fathers signed the Declaration of Independence, and we celebrate our freedom from England with flags, parades and time with family and friends.

At Blue Grass Energy, we are mindful of how the cooperative principles that guide our member-owned business model are consistent with American ideals.

As a cooperative, Blue Grass Energy is guided by seven internationally recognized principles. Just as our nation's leaders swear an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States, leaders of your cooperative have a duty to uphold these seven principles while working for you at your cooperative.

For example, cooperative principle No. 4 is Autonomy and Independence. As we mark Independence Day, don't forget that Blue Grass Energy is also independent. Our responsibility is to make life better for our members while providing safe, reliable and affordable energy services. While there are other cooperatives and utility providers around, we are independent and are governed by you through our board of directors.

Cooperative principle No. 7 is Concern For Community. One of the many ways we support our community is Honor Flight. Each year, we send two veterans on a daylong trip to Washington, D.C., to see the memorials erected in their honor. In this issue, you will learn about Mr. Donald Brady of Berea, and Mr. Kenneth Simpson of Cynthiana, and their experience on our last Honor Flight.

We are proud of our co-op and our country; and we know that to truly serve both, we cannot take either of them for granted. That means staying engaged by keeping our members at the heart of our business.

I hope you and your family have a safe Fourth of July holiday.

By President/CEO
Michael I. Williams





Above, BGEnergy Member Services Rep. Beth Walton with her son, Stuart, welcoming the veterans home. Photo: Tim Webb

Above right, Honor Flight participants being honored as they arrive in Washington, D.C. Photo: Tim Webb

Below, the 2018 veterans at Arlington National Cemetery. Photo: Tim Webb



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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 hands to welcome their heroes.

This was the eighth Honor Flight sponsored by Blue Grass Energy and Kentucky's Touchstone Energy

Cooperatives. The mission was coordinated by Winchester-based Honor Flight Kentucky.

Honor Flight Kentucky is one of 130 plus non-profit charitable chapters located in 42 states that comprise the Honor Flight Network.

The next Honor Flight is September 21. You are invited to join us for the Welcome Home Celebration at Blue Grass Airport at 7:30 p.m.

For more information on Honor Flight Kentucky, apply for a trip or to volunteer, visit honorflightky.org.



CHARITY PARTNER

KENTUCKY WOUNDED HEROES

By connecting with others who have shared experiences, lives are being renewed and hope is being restored. That is what the Kentucky Wounded Heroes do.

Through activities like fishing trips, deer hunts, canoeing or attending sporting events, our Wounded Heroes are building lasting friendships and finding healthy ways to heal. These events are life-changing and invaluable to those who have served and sacrificed.



kentuckywoundedheroes.net



"Being able to spend time around a campfire with other combat-wounded vets helps us all to heal."

-Wounded Soldier

During their annual Alaska adventure in Kenai, the Kentucky Wounded Heroes spend cathartic time each evening around the fire. Photo: Dale Hensley

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 the Kentucky Wounded Heroes.

Pennies for Purpose

Pennies for Purpose is a way to help our neighbors and communities for pennies each month.

This program is funded by our members who round up their monthly electric bills to the nearest dollar; and will provide fund-

ing to charitable causes across our 23-county area.

A \$64.89 bill would round up to an even \$65. By rounding up, the average yearly contribution would be about \$6.

Visit bgenergy.com or call (888) 546-4243 to participate.



Pennies
for purpose

Our offices will be closed Thursday, July 4, for Independence Day.