



Editor, Patsy Whitehead, CCC
Featured above: Nolin RECC Joint Use Coordinator
Chad Denney, 12 years of service

Comments from the President and CEO

Give thanks for our veterans

November is both a month of thanksgiving and a time for recognizing those among us who have put on a uniform in service to our nation. Here at Nolin RECC, we count veterans and active duty military among those for whom we give thanks every day.

There are more than 34,500 men and women in uniform stationed in Kentucky. The commonwealth ranks 12th in the nation for having the most active duty military and reservists living and working within its borders.

According to the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs, there are also 304,000 residents of the commonwealth who previously served in the armed forces. They range from those who fought overseas in World War II to individuals who have worn uniforms in more recent years.

On Nov. 11, Veterans Day, Nolin RECC will give particular thanks for Mr. Cecil Cook of Elizabethtown, 91, who served during World War II and Mr. Clarence Collins, 83, of Radcliff who served during the Korean War. Nolin RECC sponsored both Army veterans for the Touchstone Energy Honor Flight in September. They were among the Kentucky veterans from World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War who flew to Washington, D.C., for a one-day tour of memorials dedicated to their service and sacrifices.

We are thankful for all 68 veterans who made the trip. The 2018 veterans included 97-year-old Henry Howard Smith of Flemingsburg and 96-year-old Frank Zupan of Frenchburg, who are among the oldest WW II veterans living in Kentucky. Army veteran Zupan was awarded the Silver Star, Bronze Star and Purple Heart for valor in combat.

Veterans Day also has another important meaning to your cooperative. Years ago, while Nolin RECC was still taking root in the communities we serve, World War II veterans were often among the first in their communities to sign up for a membership. Some became leaders within the co-op as well. Their influence is ongoing as the cooperative reflects their values of making service to people and community the top priority.

As you gather with family and friends this holiday season, please join Nolin RECC in saying a prayer of gratitude for every man and woman who has put on an armed forces uniform.

Happy Thanksgiving to all.



Nolin RECC Honor Flight veterans Cecil Cook, left, and Clarence Collins developed a friendship while in D.C. visiting memorials constructed in their honor. Photo: Tim Webb



Mickey Miller
President & CEO

A flight back in time

Nolin RECC sends two co-op members on Touchstone Energy Honor Flight

Story by: Sarah Fellows

At an age when most kids are concerned with friends and school work, Clarence Collins was preparing to go to war. Collins, now 83, found a way around the age requirement for the Army in 1950—at just 15 years old—and ended up near the front lines in Korea.

“I wanted to do better and I wanted to help my family...my

mom and my dad and my three sisters...and my dad was sick,” says Collins. He sent \$35 of his \$68 monthly check back home to help care for his family.

As a Laundry Equipment Maintenance Mechanic in the 7th Infantry Division of the 7th Quartermaster Company, Collins worked in support services for soldiers in combat. He says, “We could hear small arms fire...because we had to be close to the river. We would have to go to the different regiments that were actually engaged in combat because we had a shower unit and a laundry unit.”

Collins left the Army after coming home from war, but not for long. He completed high school and rejoined the Army, retiring finally after 23 years and six months. Originally from Oakdale, Louisiana,

his last assignment brought him to Fort Knox and his family settled in the area.

The Touchstone Energy Honor Flight is in its eighth year. A total of 68 veterans were selected by Touchstone Energy Co-ops to participate in September’s flight out of Lexington to Washington, D.C. The veterans get to experience for the first time the memorial of the war in which they served. Among them were Mr. Collins and Mr. Cecil Cook, both of Hardin County.

Cecil Cook, 91, was surprised when he learned that he had been nominated for the Touchstone Energy Honor Flight by not just one, but two of his neighbors. He was even more surprised to learn that he had been drawn by Nolin RECC to be on September’s flight.

“I learned about it (the Honor Flight) through other people going, but I never did think that I would be able to go because there are so many other veterans,” Cook says.

Honor Flight veterans are accompanied by a guardian that stays with them during the day-long visit to the nation’s capital. Cook’s neighbor Tracy Peters not only nominated him for the trip, she volunteered to serve as his guardian. “Watching the expressions on the veterans’ faces was priceless,” says Tracy. “The veterans were so humble and thankful—we were all just amazed by the outpouring of appreciation from perfect strangers.”



Top left, Cecil Cook poses with his Honor Flight guardian Tracy Peters at the WWII memorial. Bottom left, Clarence Collins, with his Honor Flight guardian Mark Jones, looks through the many cards and letters of appreciation from friends and family during mail call. Photo: Tracy Peters



Korean War veteran Clarence Collins is overwhelmed by the welcome home reception he receives at Lexington's Blue Grass Airport. Photo: Patsy Whitehead

Mr. Cook served in the 25th Constabulary Squadron in Germany during World War II. He entered the Army in 1945 and served for two years. While he managed to stay out of harm's way in the field, he narrowly avoided disaster returning home from the war. He was originally scheduled on a Victory boat that suffered engine failure and had to turn around. Cook and others were transferred to another boat that brought them across the ocean. After arriving home, Cook learned that the original boat he had been on sank 200 miles off the coast of New York.

The Touchstone Energy Honor Flight helps veterans reconnect to their service and their fellow service members. It's a way to honor the sacrifices they made. Returning home after a full, emotional day, the veterans are greeted by cheering crowds and well-wishers at the airport. Both veterans representing Nolin were overwhelmed and

amazed with the number of servicemen and women, co-op personnel, community friends and family members that attended the welcome home ceremony at

Lexington's Blue Grass Airport. "This is just awesome," says Clarence Collins upon his arrival home. "All these people are here to see us!"

Cecil Cook receives a loving hug from his daughter, Sharon Cook, as he arrives home at Lexington's Blue Grass Airport. Photo: Patsy Whitehead



CHRIS HAYES



Ryan Ray, top right, placed third in the Individual De-energize Line event at the 2018 Kentucky Lineman's Rodeo. Ray, Jamie Price and Cameron Hernandez, bottom, won first place in the Team Line Replacement event. Photos: Thom Whittinghill

Kentucky Lineman's Rodeo features skills and safety

Nolin RECC was proud to send a talented team to the 2018 Kentucky Lineman's Rodeo that took place September 13-14 in Murray. The event gathers competitors from cooperatives around Kentucky to promote the skills and teamwork essential to the line technician trade.

A group of line technicians and

other supporters from Nolin RECC represented our members and staff. Jamie Price, Cameron Hernandez and Ryan Ray took first place in the Team Line Replacement event. Additionally, Ray placed third in the Individual De-energize Line event.

Nolin RECC will host the event in 2019.

The Nolin RECC offices will be CLOSED November 22 & 23 for the Thanksgiving holiday

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