

BIG SANDY RURAL ELECTRIC *Cooperative Corporation*

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7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



DAVID ESTOPP
BIG SANDY RECC
MANAGER

Big Sandy RECC's Honor Flight for WWII veterans was a terrific success

It was one of the most emotionally rewarding days of their lives.

That's what World War II veterans said about their Oct. 22 Honor Flight to Washington, D.C., sponsored by Big Sandy RECC and Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives.

Big Sandy RECC and 15 other Kentucky electric cooperatives joined with the Bluegrass Chapter of the Honor Flight Network to take 29 veterans, free of charge, to visit the World War II Memorial and other war

monuments. Twenty-seven of the men were veterans of World War II; two others fought in the Korean War.

We treated these former soldiers, marines, and sailors like the heroes they are.

When they arrived at the Louisville International Airport about 5:30 a.m., they were greeted by the warm smiles of their volunteer escorts and other grateful citizens.

When they landed at Baltimore International Airport later that morn-



James "Merle" Nickell of West Liberty, who was sponsored on October's Honor Flight by Big Sandy Rural Electric Co-op. He stands next to former Sen. Bob Dole near the WWII Memorial. Nickell served on the U.S.S. Norton Sound and fought in the Battle of Okinawa. After the war he taught history for 22 years at Northern Kentucky University. Photo by Tim Webb.

Honor Flight

ing, they were met by hundreds more well-wishers, including 65 midshipmen from the U.S. Naval Academy.

“You cannot describe how this touches you. There is no way you can prepare yourself for this,” said former Marine Jay Warden, 86, of Winchester, who fought in the South Pacific. “Our country is in good shape. It makes you glad you’re an American.”

The veterans traveled from Baltimore to Washington in a chartered bus. As the day progressed, their stories poured out.

“They talk about the heroes coming back. In my opinion the heroes never came back,” said Kirtly Green, 85, from Frankfort, who served on a Navy destroyer.

Green manned a gun that fired 40 millimeter shells. As a result, today he can hardly hear.

His ship saw action at Iwo Jima, where it lost 11 men, and at Okinawa.

“Okinawa was really rough. The

suicide planes just kept coming,” he said.

“That’s why he wants to see the memorial,” said his son, Gary Green, of Louisville, who accompanied him. “Because of those guys (who didn’t make it).”

Volunteer Roberta Skinner, a Touchstone Energy Cooperative employee, was pushing Forrest Sparrow’s wheelchair around the World War II Memorial.

Sparrow, 89, was injured at the Battle of the Bulge and hospitalized in Liege, Belgium, so Skinner was helping him look for the portion of the memorial devoted to that battle.

Just as they found it, a stranger rushed up, dropped to a knee, and grasped Sparrow’s hand.

“You were in the Battle of the Bulge?” the man asked.

Sparrow said he was.

The man introduced himself as Dominique Potier—from Liege, Belgium.

“You saved my country,” he said.

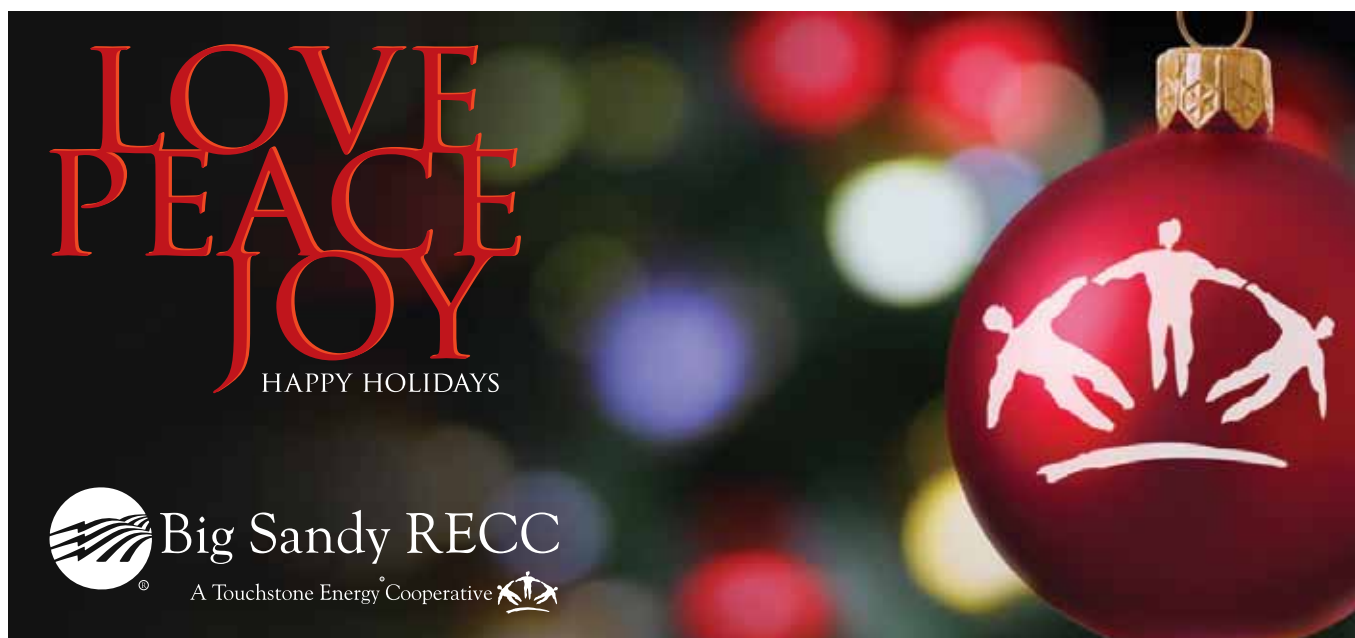
On the flight home, the vets received a “mail call” of letters from their families, employees from Kentucky’s Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, and others thanking them for their sacrifices. Some wept.

When they arrived in Louisville at 8:40 p.m., they were met by another huge, cheering crowd.

“It’s been wonderful. I didn’t know it was going to be this great,” said John Shafer, 91, of Milton. “The only other time I felt this good was when I came back from the war.”

We all owe these veterans a profound debt. Big Sandy RECC is honored to have had the opportunity to say, in one small way, “thank you.”

From all of us here at Big Sandy RECC, we wish you and your family abundant joy and peace during this holiday season.



DECEMBER 2011 DEALS

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Here are three discounts available for Christmas shopping through your Co-op Connections Card. You can learn more about other deals at www.co-opconnections.com.

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learn the

LINGO

What is a margin?

A not-for-profit cooperative's margin is the money left over from our revenue after our expenses are paid. Margin is reserve capital to cover business risks like storm damage and uncollected bills. If margins become too large, we provide a refund to members in the form of capital credits.

Simple Savings

easy energy tips: Water heater management

Heating water for your home can account for up to 25 percent of your household's total energy costs. That is second only to the heating and cooling system. You can save on heating water by taking several easy steps:

- **Reduce energy losses from your tank and pipes.** Turn the water heater thermostat down to 120 degrees Fahrenheit, and insulate the tank with a water heater blanket and the pipes with insulation.
- **Reduce use or waste of hot water.** Install low-flow shower heads and faucet aerators to cut hot water consumption by as much as 25 percent.

New heat pump hot water systems can lower water heating costs significantly. If you have a geothermal system, make sure you are utilizing the water heating capability of the system. For further water heating savings, make sure to look for the Energy Star label when you purchase a new washing machine or dishwasher.