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CAMILLA, GEORGIA
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Reflect and Honor: May is Military Appreciation Month

By Tony Tucker

While enjoying various Memorial Day festivities this month, I hope you will join me in pausing to reflect on the sacrifices of our country's veterans and their families. I am especially thankful for those who gave the ultimate sacrifice so that we can enjoy the freedoms their service affords us in this great country of ours.

May is Military Appreciation Month, and in the words of John F. Kennedy, "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."



At Mitchell EMC, we are grateful to have veterans within our ranks, and we are proud to serve veterans and their families within our local community. In addition to providing safe, reliable and affordable energy, we care for the veteran community and show our appreciation through our actions

and ongoing commitment to them and their families.

We are not alone in our efforts to honor and serve veterans. Mitchell EMC is part of a network of more than 900 electric cooperatives across the country that support and honor our nation's veterans of all generations. As part of our national association of electric cooperatives, spanning 48 states and serving 13% of U.S. consumers, there are countless programs that our family of electric co-ops has initiated.

At the national level, we support the Vets Power Us program, which is aimed at employing and honoring veterans, active military and their spouses. This effort helps veterans understand potential career paths with electric co-ops and in turn, provides co-ops with best practices in attracting, onboarding and retaining veterans.

The Department of Defense is one of the largest energy consumers worldwide and the single largest energy consumer in the U.S. We, like other electric co-ops across the country, work closely with military installations, providing electricity and partnering on various projects.

Not only do we pause on Memorial Day to remember the sacrifice and service of those who gave all, but the month also holds several other military anniversaries and events, including Military Spouse Appreciation Day on May 8, and Armed Forces Day on May 16.

Mitchell EMC is proud to be a part of the electric cooperative network that honors and supports veterans of all ages, ranks and branches of the military. Please join us in taking a moment to show your appreciation to a veteran--not just this month, but every month.



Photo source: John Lowrey, Tribute to Old Glory

Electric Co-ops are Contributing to a Smarter Grid

By Tracy Warren

It's a familiar scene: poles and wires stretching into the distance alongside a rural highway. This image might appear no different now than it did many years ago. But look more closely.

Invisible to most of us is an overlay of new equipment—chips, sensors and fiber—linking remote distribution infrastructure to the utility's operations center using advanced communications technology.

Those iconic poles and wires are now part of a “smart grid” that can be operated using software and automation.

For electric cooperatives, “digitalization” of electric infrastructure kicked into high gear in 2013 when the

U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) funded new technology research at 23 electric co-ops across the country. That partnership has now evolved into a robust research program exploring everything from drones and smart solar inverters to cybersecurity training and carbon capture technology.

Here are some of the ways co-op consumer-members are already benefiting from a smarter grid:

- **Fewer power outages.**

In certain situations, smart feeder switching can re-route power around problems such as downed power lines, which reduces the number of people affected by an outage.

- **Pre-pay programs.** Most co-op pre-pay billing programs no longer impose hefty

reconnection fees because, thanks to advanced digital meters, the co-op doesn't need to send out a truck to physically reconnect the home.

- **Cost savings from increased efficiency.** Many of the new technologies are improving the efficiency of co-op operations—from reducing the amount of electricity lost in transmission to reducing the need for sending out trucks. These cost savings are passed on to co-op members.

- **Improved safety for co-op workers and the members.** The data from smart technologies provide utility operators a more detailed view of what is happening on the electric system. Co-ops have found that the data can help them identify electrical hazards faster.

The research partnership between electric cooperatives and the U.S. DOE, including the national laboratories, has enabled co-ops nationwide to increase their total solar energy capacity, install cutting-edge batteries for energy storage and microgrids, develop data analytics tools and find new ways to capture emissions from coal and natural gas power plants.

This partnership gives electric co-ops in some of the most remote regions of the country access to an amazing network of researchers, including researchers at Carnegie Mellon University, Purdue University and the University of California at Berkley, to name a few.



INSPECTING METER: Most electric co-op pre-pay billing programs no longer impose hefty reconnection fees because, thanks to advanced digital meters, the co-op doesn't need to send out a truck to physically reconnect the home.

Photo Source: NRECA



4 COMMON CULPRITS OF ELECTRICAL FIRES

SMARTER GRID *Continued*

In exchange, the researchers can see how these new technologies operate in the real-world.

So, the next time you are driving down a long highway and you see poles and wires stretching into the far distance, know there's more to that system than meets the eye. While the electricity in your home powers the toaster just as it always did, that electricity is more efficient, more reliable and safer thanks to innovation made possible by cooperation.

Tracy Warren writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56 percent of the nation's landscape.

Outdated wiring and overloaded circuits are the most common causes of electrical fires.

Check the following areas of your home to ensure your home's electrical safety is up to par.



Electrical outlets: Faulty electrical outlets are a leading cause of home fires. As outlets age, so do the wires behind them that you can't see. Any loose, damaged or warm-to-the-touch outlets should be repaired or replaced.



Electrical wiring: Outdated wiring is another common cause of electrical fires. Frequently tripped breakers, flickering lights and burning smells are clear warning signs. If your home is more than 20 years old, it may not be able to handle today's increased power load. If you suspect your home's wiring is outdated, leave this one to the pros and contact a qualified electrician.



Overloaded cords and outlets: Extension cords are not permanent solutions. If your big-screen TV, home theater system and other electronics are plugged into one extension cord, it's time to call an electrician and install additional outlets.



Old appliances: Older appliances are more likely to have loose or damaged wiring, which means they're more likely to catch fire. Check older appliances for damage and determine if it's time to upgrade or replace. Also check to ensure you're using appliance-grade outlets. A qualified electrician can help with installation.

NOTICE

Annual Meeting of the Members

At Mitchell EMC, the health and well-being of our members and communities is our top priority. Due to the concern and uncertainty surrounding the coronavirus (COVID-19), the Board of Directors and Staff at Mitchell EMC feel it is in our consumer's best interest to not conduct the Annual Meeting of the Members on April 17, 2020, as we had planned.

The board plans to hold a **Special Called Meeting of the Members** of Mitchell EMC on **Friday, September 18, 2020**, at 475 Cairo Road, Camilla, GA 31730. Additional information will follow closer to the meeting date.





Employee SPOTLIGHT

David Norton is Mitchell EMC's May Employee Spotlight. David is a Lead Line Technician in the Sylvester District Office and has been employed with MEMC for 30-1/2 years.

When he is not on the job, David enjoys going camping with his family. Three words to describe



David are energetic, helpful and giving. He also enjoys having the opportunity to meet people around the county and provide them with good customer service and working with Mitchell EMC and our great group of coworkers! David has a passion for woodworking.

David has been married 35 years. I have two wonderful daughters and two son-in-laws with four rambunctious grandsons. They make life very interesting! When my family moved here 30 years ago, we didn't realize what a wonderful community we were moving into but it's our extended family now.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When the weather is nice, put your grill to use! During summer months, cooking outdoors is a great way to save energy and eliminate unwanted heat from cooking indoors.



Note: If you move or no longer have electric service with Mitchell EMC, it is important that members keep their address current, so that future disbursements can be properly mailed. Capital credits are reserved for members even if they move out of the Mitchell EMC service area. Mitchell EMC will make a diligent effort to send a check by mail.

Statement of Equal Employment Opportunity

All applicants for employment shall be considered and hired on the basis of merit, without regard to race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy), age, national origin, disability, genetic information, or past or present military status. The employment practices shall ensure equal treatment of all employees, without discrimination as to promotion, discharge, rates of pay, fringe benefits, job training, classification, referral, and other aspects of employment, on the basis of race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy), national origin, disability, age, genetic information, or past or present military status. M/F/V/DV/D



WATT'S COOKING



No Peek Beef Casserole

Ingredients:

2 pounds all meat stew beef or round steak cut into bite size pieces
1 envelope dry onion soup mix
1 (4.5 oz.) jar sliced mushrooms, undrained
1 (10 $\frac{3}{4}$ oz.) can cream of mushroom soup, undiluted

Directions:

Mix all ingredients in a 2 quart casserole dish and cover tightly. Bake in a 300° oven for 3 hours. DO NOT PEEK. Serve over noodles or yellow rice. We prefer rice. Yield 6-8 servings.

Thanks!

to **Dennis Paramore**,
Mitchell County, GA,
for sharing this recipe.

Share & Win!

Send us your favorite quick and easy dinner recipes. If your recipe is chosen for print, you can win a

\$25 credit

on your next Mitchell EMC bill.

Send recipes to: Heather Greene, P.O. Box 409, Camilla, GA 31730 or email to heather.greene@mitchellemc.com.