



Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative
The power of human connections

RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2022

Manager's Message *Small Change Can Change Lives*

by Darick Eisenbraun



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November is a month to be thankful. Thankful for family, for friends and for our Veterans. Thanksgiving—Nov 24th
High Plains Power will be closed November 24th & 25th.
Veterans Day—Nov 11th

The holiday season is finally here. Some call it the most wonderful season of all. That's because we associate it with family traditions and gathering with friends and loved ones. It's a time of giving and spreading joy.

But giving back reminds me of the many good things we have right here in our communities and why it's so important to spread the good as far as we can, especially to the most vulnerable in our local areas. I'm also reminded of how wonderful our communities are and what a big impact we can have when we work together.

When you are a member of High Plains Power, you help us spread the good throughout the year. Through our Operation Roundup program, your donations help local families and individuals in need.

When you "round up" your monthly bill from High Plains Power and donate to this fund, you're making a big difference in someone's life. You are you helping to meet an immediate, critical need, but just as importantly, you are telling this person the community cares.

Over the years, our community-focused programs, food donations and other giving projects have built up our communities, supported local schools and young people, fed hungry families, enabled families in need to keeping persevering.

High Plains Power also participates in the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, where we take our communities brightest young people to Washington, D.C. for a week-long immersion to experience democracy in action.

Ultimately, the larger community benefits from these programs because of you and your neighbors.

You've likely heard me say that the cooperative principle "concern for community" is part of High Plains Power's DNA. It defines who we are as an organization. When we first brought electricity to our communities in the 1940's, the quality of life improved. But other things also need to be addressed and through the years, this co-op has been at the forefront of bringing improvements to the quality of life in our communities. It's why we created Operation Round Up.

To date, with your help, we've given back tens of thousands to local families and individuals through this program. And across the country, more than 350 electric co-ops have an Operation Round Up program, and together, we've raised millions for local communities. This shows that small donations from electric co-ops like ours, over time, can collectively make a big impact.

As a local cooperative, we have a stake in our communities. It's why we support local organizations like Boys and Girls Club, Special Olympics, Volunteer Fire Departments and many more. We hope you will think of High Plains Power as more than your energy provider, but also as a catalyst for good in our community.

I hope all our members have a joyous holiday season. May it be merry and bright!

To learn more about Operation Round Up, visit:
www.highplainspower.org/operation-roundup.



2022 Hunting with Heroes

“As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.” -- John F. Kennedy

Billy W. Cook Jr.

This was my second time hunting with Hunting with Heroes (HwH), but my first time hunting elk and was a big difference from hunting whitetails in the south. The elevation change kicked my tail, but the scenery was beautiful. These hunts are so special and near and dear to the heart. It really means a lot to be able to get out and hunt with fellow veterans that have similar life experiences. To be able to let your guard down and chat, or just cut up. It's the best therapy one could have in my opinion. If it wasn't for HwH and the great volunteers like Trapper Bradshaw, it wouldn't be possible for a lot of veterans. Outstanding organization. I tip my hat to the volunteers like Trapper, and their families, that take the time out of their busy schedules and donate it to us. I feel like I not only made friends with the guides, but my new extended family. Lastly, I would like to give a big thank you to the employers who afford them the time off to do these hunts for us. It is very much so appreciated.



V/R,
Billy Cook Jr.
Billy W. Cook Jr., Master Sergeant, US Army 1990-2007.
Deployed to Kuwait in support of Operation Desert Storm 1991, and four times to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom from 2001 to 2006.

Larry Walter Phillips Jr

SFC(R) Larry Walter Phillips Jr a U.S. Army veteran is married to Jennifer Phillips who is also a U.S. Army veteran. They have 4 daughters, 10 grandchildren, and 2 dogs. I served from 17 May 1995 thru 31 Aug 2016 as a Parachute Rigger. Most of my career was spent sup-



porting Special Operations units. I travelled all over the world to include a combat deployment supporting a Special Operations Unit. I was very fortunate to attend several schools like Static Line Jump Master Course, Military Freefall Basic, Jumpmaster, and Advanced Freefall. I finished out my career at

The U.S. Army Test Directorate evaluating personnel and heavy drop equipment.

Trapper Bradshaw and Calon Cuttlers are the right people to guide these hunts. Trapper and Calon made every day pleasurable and made each one of us feel like family. The long days and lack of sleep did not deter their commitment for each one of us to fill our tags. They put in the hard work each day. These men worked within our physical abilities never once pushing us beyond our physical limits. Since retiring I have missed the bonds forged with those I served; Trapper and Calon bonded with each of us and that can never be broken. Trapper and Calon are two men that are truly dedicated to giving back to their communities and the people in it. I want to thank those in leadership at High Plains Power for giving Trapper and Calon the opportunity to spend time with us. Hunting with Heroes would not exist without people like Trapper and Calon who have dedicated themselves to the success of the veteran hunts.



Gary L. Griggs

My name is Gary Griggs. I served in the U.S. Army from 1968 to 1970. After my training, I was sent to Vietnam where I served with the 1st Infantry Division also known as the Big Red One. I was a combat soldier and drove an armored personnel carrier (APC) for most of my time in country. Some of the notable conflicts in which I fought included the Battle of Loc Ninh, the Tet Offensive of 1968 and numerous specialized military ground operations. I received the Bronze Star medal for missions against hostile forces.



I was blessed to be chosen to participate in a Wyoming elk and mule deer hunt provided by Hunting with Heroes. This organization and the people who make it possible are truly amazing and I cannot say enough good things about them. I instantly felt at home with everyone I came in contact with from this organization. Many of the individuals in this organization are also veterans who volunteer their time, expertise, and knowledge to give disabled veterans a chance to hunt this incredible part of the country. Trapper and Calon were my hunting guides and both worked tirelessly to give me a successful hunt of a lifetime. In fact, they spotted a large elk for me and put me in the right position to be able to take a shot. I was very fortunate to come home with a very nice bull thanks to their efforts. I will forever be grateful for this opportunity and experience.



The other guides with our group also bent over backwards to make our hunt was successful in every way. I instantly felt at home with them and all who worked so hard to make this a life-changing experience. The community members near Shoshoni, WY were also so friendly, patriotic, and welcoming and showed us great kindness by showing us with gifts and warm hospitality. I proudly display the homemade quilt provided by the Mary Ellen Pitcher of Quilts of Valor that I received last year. These people understand the sacrifices that were made by our veterans and their families.

My family and I thank you all so very much for this wonderful opportunity. May we never forget.

Clifton Sessions

I'm Sgt Clifton Sessions and I served 7.5 years, deployed twice to Iraq the first was 12 months from 2004 to 2005, and the second was 15 months from 2006 to October 2007. As a disabled Army combat veteran I had an unforgettable experience. I have never harvested an elk myself and learned a new way to



quickly quarter a bull elk. Trapper and Calon put in 110% effort in locating and getting us veterans in position to harvest a very nice bull. We made it a group effort to harvest two bulls this hunt. Thank you so much for allowing Trapper and Calon the time to prepare and take us on an adventure of a lifetime. I feel that I made some lifetime friends and look forward to a future hunt.

Carl Griggs

My name is Carl Griggs and I served in the United States Army from 1965-1969. I served as a Green Beret in Vietnam in 1966 and 1967. I was wounded in combat and was awarded the Purple Heart. After a stint in the hospital I returned to my unit and finished my tour of duty.



As a disabled veteran, I cannot thank you enough for allowing Trapper the time off to guide disabled veterans, such as myself, on a hunt of a lifetime. That was a dream come true for me. Your participation in this speaks volumes about your company's patriotism and generosity. I cannot express my



gratitude enough to Trapper who worked so hard to help me fulfill this dream.

With gratitude,
Sgt. Carl Griggs, Green Beret

Ron Leu

Thank you for allowing Trapper and Calon to join us for "Hunting with Heroes" in 2022.

You guys worked very hard and very patiently with me as I hadn't shot a gun in 55 years and have never used a scope. The patience you took with me to make a good shoot is something I've never experienced before.

Guys like you who take the time to spend with a Veteran are two in a million. It was very fulfilling that the entire community backs the American flag, which is sadly not the case these days in most parts of the country.

Hunting with Heroes, headed by Shawn, Trapper, Calon and Brian, is a fantastic experience and I am blessed to be able to be a part of it.

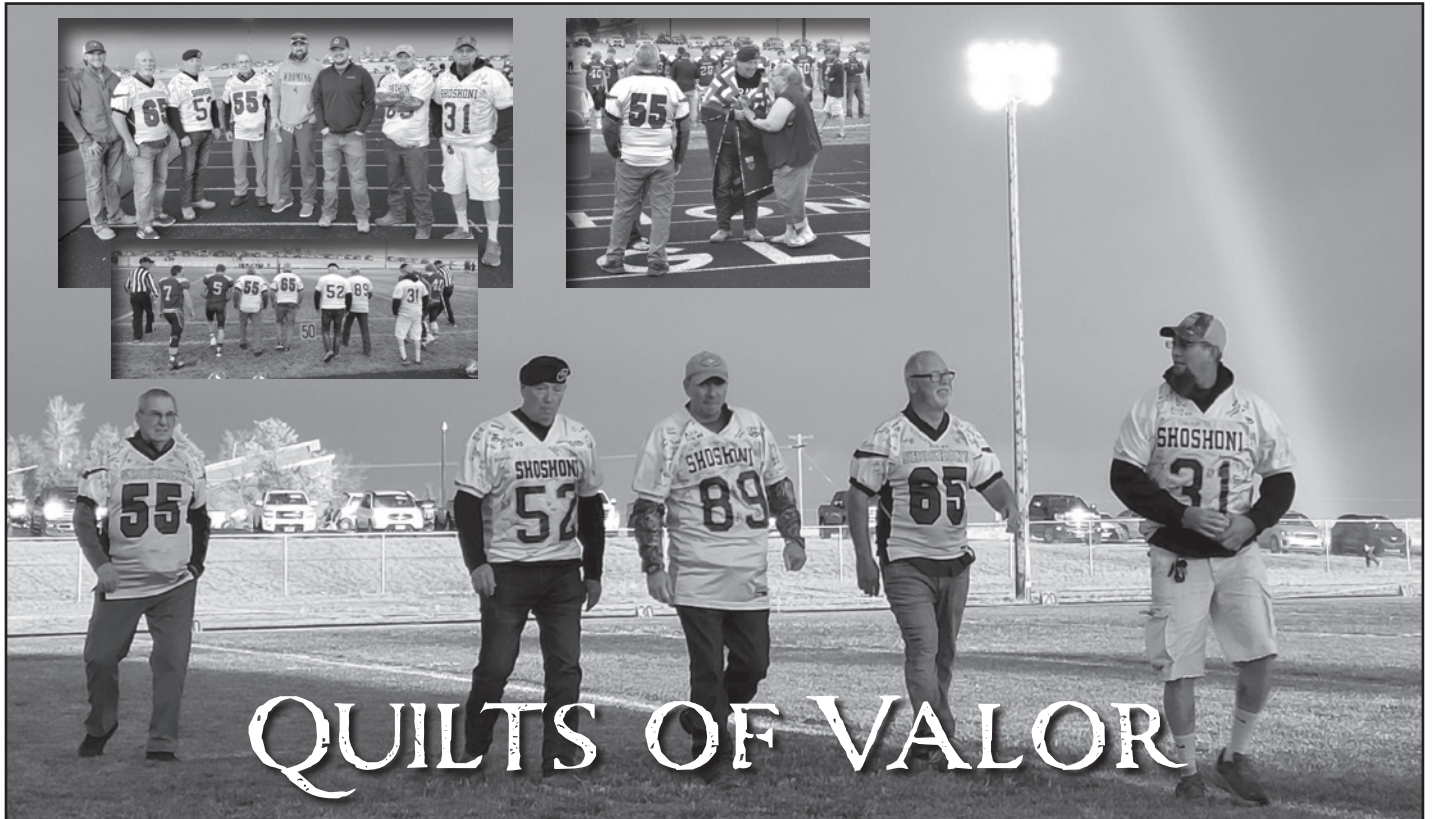
I hope that High Plains Power continues to back us and to allow their spectacular employees to continue to join us.



After returning from 2 tours of duty in Vietnam, as a Sea-bee installing high power lines ahead of the rank and file, and being a part of other endeavors in country, it's great to have a very welcoming community respond to the veterans so kindly as opposed to what we came home to.

Thank you all again, from a grateful veteran.

Ron Leu



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Ideas, questions and comments are welcome.

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