



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO

WHAT IS GRID RESILIENCY?



Glenn W. Miller
PRESIDENT/CEO



Resiliency of the grid is one of the most popular concepts being talked about in the electric industry today. This concept recently made headlines in the wake of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, which caused extraordinary damage to Puerto Rico's electric grid, resulting in the longest sustained outage in U.S. history. Lack of resilience became the go-to phrase to describe Puerto Rico's grid. Here in Ohio, what does grid resiliency mean for you?

Resiliency is many things — it's reliability in your electric service, it's our ability to efficiently restore your power, it's being able to meet the demands of new technology, and it's how we serve you with various generation sources without skipping a beat. Ultimately, resiliency is how we deliver on our promise to maintain and improve the quality of life for our member-owners.

When it comes to having a resilient electric grid, it begins with a system that is designed and built to withstand powerful storms, cybersecurity threats, and other disruptions that could result in outages. A resilient grid is also flexible and adaptable by allowing different types of generation — such as wind, solar, coal, and hydro — to work seamlessly together to provide you with safe and reliable power. The way our systems react to advancements in technology and from demand response to serving the needs of electric vehicles—all factor into the resilience of the grid.

Resiliency is a 24/7, 365-days-a-year task. Whether it's the power lines, substations, or generation facilities on our grid, it takes proactive maintenance and investment to keep them running smoothly. With thousands of consumers without power for months, the lack of resiliency in Puerto Rico's power grid wasn't solely caused by hurricane damage; it was the result of years of neglect in taking care of their system and preparing for a worst-case scenario.

In a similar way to how we maintain our vehicles with regular oil changes, inspections, and tire rotations, a grid must also be properly maintained. Throughout the year, we regularly conduct substation, pole, and line inspections. Our goal is to find a weakness before it becomes a problem. For example, if we find a weak pole that has damage from termites, we replace that pole. Doing so ensures that pole is as strong — or as resilient — as it can be.

In our community, we know that the variety of weather challenges, accidents, trees, and animals can cause outages. That's why we invest our time and energy year-round making our system as reliable as possible. We have a staff dedicated daily to resilience because we believe it not only is our job and expectation, but we believe in our members and the community we serve. That is commitment to our members that will never change.



Community coming together for veterans

BY MARGO BARTLETT

As the third annual Holmes-Wayne Honor Trip to Washington, D.C., quickly approaches, four past participants gathered to share their touching experience.

Sponsored by the Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative, the Shreve American Legion Forest Post 67, and the motorcycle group Rolling Thunder Inc. Ohio Chapter 2, the Holmes-Wayne Honor Trip is similar to the Honor Flight but is a three-day bus trip that dedicates quality time for veterans to reflect and heal at several memorials in the nation's capital.

Korean War veteran Junior Vaughn went on the first trip. "We didn't have a bit of problems," said Vaughn. Joining in the inaugural year was Marcella Hawkins, as a guardian. She was excited to give back to local veterans by being a guardian.



Also sharing their reason for participating were Ray Morris and Chassie Cryzter, a Marine vet and a guardian who were part of the 2017 group.

Cryzter, an Air Force veteran, was eager to support a veteran in this worthy cause. Born and raised in Holmes County, she returned to Ashland County after 20 years of living in the D.C. area. Her husband has retired from the Air Force and her late father was a Marine. She understands the importance of honoring veterans and jumped at the opportunity to support local veterans.

Morris, who bravely served in the Marines during the Vietnam war, said he'd been ambivalent about the trip. On the evening the travelers were to meet each other, he said, he almost stayed home to watch a Clint Eastwood movie.

When did he realize he'd made the right decision? Morris beamed at Cryzter.

"That night, when I met her," he said. "After we met we talked for half an hour."

"Yes, I believe we shut down that Legion that night," Cryzter agreed.

A total of 24 veterans, each matched with guardians, will leave Aug. 24 for the 2018 trip. The group includes a doctor, who also is a veteran, and a historical guide, retired teacher Elaine Hess, who will provide information and background throughout the experience.

Hess, who travels with student groups as well as veterans, is always a hit with the travelers, said Shay Lynch, Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative administration coordinator.

"Wasn't she phenomenal?" Morris said.

"It was as if she told you little secrets (about history) no one knew about," Cryzter said.

Rolling Thunder motorcyclists accompanied the bus all the way to the state line, Hawkins said.

"We didn't realize they were taking us all the way," she said.

The veterans visit memorials, both at night and during the day, and take part in wreath-laying ceremonies at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. This year's group also will visit the White House.

The elevator at the Jefferson Memorial broke while the

2016 group was visiting the monument, Hawkins said. Without even discussing what to do or how to do it, veterans and guardians carried the wheelchair-bound vets down the steps, she said.

A longer trip has several advantages over the more common one-day visit, the four agreed: more time to talk, more time for meals, and more time to form lasting friendships. Hawkins showed a hardbound book of photographs she'd had made. She also showed an intricately carved wooden eagle, a gift from her veteran, and Cryzter passed around her own photograph book detailing Morris' trip.

She was proud to have been part of the inaugural Honor Trip, Hawkins said.

Veterans who take the Honor Trip pay nothing; their travel and other expenses are covered by sponsors. Guardians pay \$375. Custom shirts and hats are provided to veterans; guardians receive their own custom shirts for easy identification. Planners try to anticipate every contingency, including cooling towels for hot weather.

As the bus pulled out of Shreve and headed south, the four said, conversations began. Tentatively and then with rising enthusiasm, veterans and guardians exchanged stories and memories. For nearly 60 hours, conversations continued everywhere — in the hotel lobby, at meals, at the memorials.

“You just start talking about your life,” Hawkins said. All agreed, it's sometimes easier to share your experiences with someone you don't know well than if you were with a close family member or friend. It allows for truthful appreciation for the sacrifice.

If the drive down was a polite, getting-to-know-you trip, the drive back was “a different ballgame all around,” Morris said. Stories, jokes, and emotional moments were shared without restraint.

And everywhere they went, all agreed, strangers approached to thank them for their service and to wish them well.

The trips' success, Morris said, is largely due to the effort that goes into the preparations.

“The trip was planned right down. . .,” he trailed off, at a loss for sufficiently complimentary words. “It could have been a good military operation,” he finished.

Maybe the most unexpected highlight of the trip wasn't in Washington, D.C., but back home. As the bus returns home, veterans are warmly received by a community return-home parade.



Vaughn said he was overwhelmed by the welcoming crowd when the bus returned to Shreve.

“That was a great thing over at Shreve,” he said of the homecoming parade. “It kind of got you a little bit.”

“I think what surprised me was running into a vet several months later and they share how their lives have been changed,” Lynch explained. “Burdens and heavy feelings have been released. Then you realize it's much more than a three-day trip honoring veterans who gave more than I fully comprehend. You are humbled to work for and live in a community that truly cares for our veterans.”

This year's return-home parade will be Sunday, Aug. 26, at 6:30 p.m. Community members can line the streets of Shreve to welcome home our local heroes with a brief ceremony recognizing veterans' participation. A food wagon will be available to purchase dinner, and hand-held flags will be provided. Mark your calendar for this memorable and important community outreach.



HOLMES-WAYNE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LOCAL PAGES

Unable to make the Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting?

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meeting in our
September edition
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