

Gratitude for Veterans and Blessings



MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT/GENERAL MANAGER BILLY MARRICLE

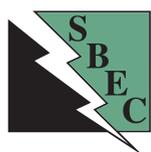
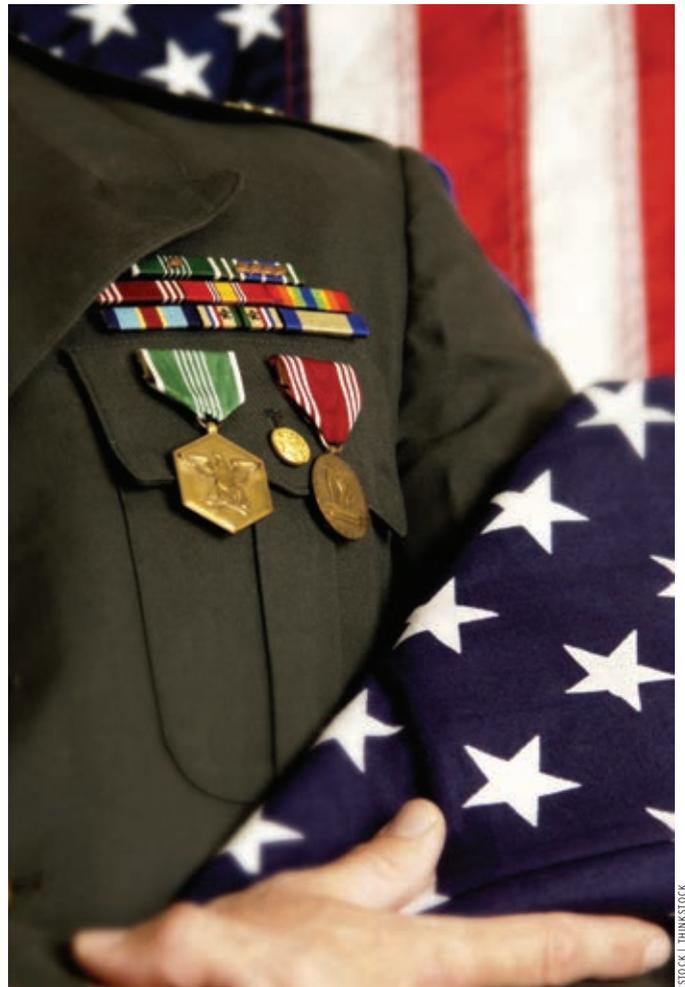
I KNOW THAT BY NOW MOST OF US ARE SICK and tired of hearing about the NFL players and our nation's flag. I won't get into to that in this column. What I will get into is the fact that the freedom we enjoy every day in this nation has come at a cost. There have been many brave individuals who sacrificed so much in order for us to have these liberties, many with their own life. In November we have the opportunity to observe Veterans Day and to show respect to those who served to protect your rights as Americans.

Like many organizations, San Bernard Electric Cooperative is proud to have several former military servicemen working to serve our membership. In this month's magazine we have showcased each employee and director that served in the military. I cannot imagine what some of them experienced, as some were in combat zones. All I know is that when the Star-Spangled Banner is playing, I will stand with respect. Not only for the flag but also for these individuals.

In November we also observe the traditional turkey day, Thanksgiving. Seems like we just did that—my how time does fly. It seems like it was just yesterday that I was screaming at the television set as my favorite football team was trying to blow the game. I truly hope that you can visit with friends and family members during the holidays. We all have so much to be thankful for. Let's keep all those affected by the recent storms in our prayers and I personally would like to wish everyone a very happy holiday season.

As a reminder: SBEC will be closed November 23 and 24 to observe the Thanksgiving holiday. Also, as with tradition, the December issue of this magazine will be dedicated to showcasing our employees.

Until next time, take care.



**San Bernard
Electric Co-op**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Front row, left to right, are Joe McCarty, Robert Pina and Javier Sanchez. Back row, left to right, are Bubba Phillips, Craig Wick, Larry Koerth, Aaron Henke, Jack Meyer and John Lyth. Not pictured is Sam Grigar.

Ask SBEC Service Crews

SBEC SERVICE CREWS ARE THE ONES THAT GO OUT DAILY AND SERVE THE SAN BERNARD Electric Cooperative membership by changing area lights and reconnecting service. They work closely with dispatchers and customer service representatives to take care of SBEC members. Service is more hands-on with the members, and they visit multiple destinations throughout the day. When you are on the service crew, your assignments change daily.

“The most important part of the job is good customer service and helping our members out,” said Bubba Phillips, a serviceman in the Fieldstore area.

Here are some frequently asked questions that service crews receive from members when they are out in the field:

Can you fix our area light when it's wet outdoors?

The majority of the time we can. If it is too wet for us to use the bucket truck, we can climb the pole and change out a bulb.

Do we have to be home for you to come out and fix our area light?

No, you do not have to be home—but we do need a lock combination, or the gate needs to be unlocked in order for us to access your property. Please let our customer service representatives know if there are any special instructions about the property when you call to report an issue with your area light.

How quickly can you get our power on?

We want your power restored just as quickly as you do, but there is never a guaranteed time frame for when your power will be restored. Safety is always important to us during an outage, and we work as quickly and safely as we can. If there is a lightning storm, we may not be able to restore your power as fast as if we're just fixing a blown transformer caused by a squirrel.



San Bernard Electric Cooperative

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Billy Marricle

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SBEC Is Proud of Our Veterans

SAN BERNARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE IS proud to recognize our board of directors and employees who have served our country in the military. We currently have 10 veterans who help make up our San Bernard EC family; some served as far back as World War II, while others are still active in the National Guard. We salute these men and their service to our country this Veterans Day and every day. Thank you for your service.



AL RADKE

Branch: National Guard

Years of service: 1965–1971

Why did you join? I was at Texas A&M and in the Corp of Cadets when I joined the National Guard. I could enlist or be drafted; this was a way I could continue my education and complete my goals of becoming an officer.

Basic training: Fort Polk, Louisiana (Tiger Land). My basic training was during the Vietnam War, and it was three months of actual combat training, Vietnam-style. Fort Polk prepared you for what battle in Vietnam would actually be like. The last three months of basic training were riot control training. This training was important at the time because of all the marches going on during the Vietnam War. We would alternate between the Vietnam-style training and riot control.

What was training like after basic train-

ing? It was three three-day weekends a month instead of one during Vietnam.

Did your military experience influence your life and the way you work?

Absolutely! Everything you do in life will train you and give you an insight to something else.

SBEC position: Retired as a senior staking technician in 2008. Currently works part time in field engineering.



DANIEL LEWIS

Branch: U.S. Army

Years of service: 2000–2008

Why did you join? I enlisted to serve people and defend my country. I was in the junior ROTC, and it was something I was good at. It just felt like the right thing to do.

Do you remember your first days of service? I remember my first days of basic training in Fort Sill, Oklahoma, were filled with a lot of push-ups, shots and discipline (both mental and physical). My first time in a leadership role came when I was in basic training: I turned 18 during basic training, and they gave me the title of platoon leader for the day.

Where did you serve? I served two tours in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. I served in Baghdad and Diyala Province, in the city of Baqubah.

What was your biggest accomplishment in the military? Awards and cita-

tions are great because they show you have done well throughout your career, but what I am most proud of are the coins I received during my time in the Army. They would be given by commanders, sergeants or majors for excellence in your job. I received a coin shaped like a dog tag from the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and it means a lot to me coming from a four-star general.

SBEC position: Information systems specialist, information technology



EDWIN LUEDKE

Branch: U.S. Marine Corps

Rank: Staff sergeant

War served in: Operation Enduring Freedom, Afghanistan

Years in service: 2001–2013

Why did you enlist? At age 18, I just wanted to get out of town and travel.

What were some of your experiences in boot camp? It was just boot camp. I had a lot of fun and saw it as a big old game. They try to mess with your mind, and you have to take it as a game and play along.

How did you get through boot camp? Getting the local papers and sending letters back and forth with my family.

Where did you travel while in the Marine Corps? South Korea, Afghanistan, Okinawa, Diego Garcia, Kuwait, Germany, Maine, California and Hawaii. I spent a year in Afghanistan and eight years in Hawaii.

Your main job when you arrived in Afghanistan: I ended up running an army communications center, working as a liaison between the 40 NATO countries and the Marine Corps. I had three civilian contractors and an Army member in the shop, and my job was to provide communications, repairs and tracking of equipment that was in maintenance and set up accounts with contract companies. Most contract companies were in northern Afghanistan, and we were located in the southern part of Afghanistan. I would have to fly to all the different bases and pick up and drop off equipment.

What were some of your most memorable experiences? Probably all of it. I enjoyed it, from boot camp to the very end. It was a different lifestyle; it was fun, exciting, always a challenge with different personalities.

Awards and citations: Navy achievement medal for work in Afghanistan

SBEC position: SCADA/dispatcher I



GUS H. MILLER JR.

Branch: U.S. Army, 97th Infantry Division

Years in service: 1944–1946

War served in: World War II

Did you enlist or were you drafted? Drafted when I was 18.

Where did you do your training? Basic training at Fort Hood [Camp Hood], and then a couple of months of special training before being shipped out to California to join the 97th Infantry Division.

What was it like during WWII? Once we

made it to France, we surrounded the German army in the Dusseldorf and Cologne area, where the Germans made their armor, airplanes and everything. The Germans knew they needed to hold on to that base, and once we surrounded the base, the German commander surrendered. We had 75,000, maybe 80,000 German soldiers we had to move back to stockades. The German soldiers had to walk with their hands on their heads, and if they tried to escape, we were told to shoot them.

Then, I was transferred to the 3rd Army, General George Patton's army. At that time, we were to push the Germans across Germany. We pushed them all across Germany through to Pilsen, Czechoslovakia, where we met the Russians. During this time, we ran into a German concentration camp. They were trying to hurriedly dig trenches, shooting the prisoners of war and covering them up. They did it in such a way that we could see hands and feet sticking up out of the dirt when we arrived. We gathered the able-bodied men and women to help dig the people up and give them a proper burial.

By this time, the war was over. We were searching for Adolf Hitler, Morton Bormann and other German officials. People lined the streets going places, and it was the troops' job to check all the people going up the road. There were thousands of people just leaving, not knowing where they were going.

I can remember speaking to one man on the road [who spoke English]. I asked him where he was going, and he said that he was a prisoner at Amsterdam. He said, "The Germans came in 1940 and shot my mother, father and sister and threw me in a truck. I could see my house burning as we drove off." This man was a prisoner for five years, and he was walking back home to Amsterdam after the war ended. He had no family or home, but was determined to go back to his birthplace.

What are some of the awards you received while in the service? I received the Bronze Star, given to me after I was discharged.

Did you join any veterans organizations

when you returned? Yes. When I came back to town, I saw several guys building the foundation of the American Legion Hall in Columbus. So, as soon as I came home, I helped build the American Legion Hall. I also joined the VFW.

SBEC position: Chairman of the board of directors, District 6



JOE BROUSSARD

Branch: U.S. Army Reserve

Years in service: 1996–2004

Why did you join the reserve? My grandpa was a World War II vet, and I thought I would follow in his footsteps.

Did you serve overseas? Yes, in the Bosnian conflict in Bosnia.

What was your job? I was a firefighter. I provided airport support for military, much like the firefighters do around here. I was there during the internal conflict between Croats and Serbians who lived in Bosnia. They'd started their own domestic issue, and we were there to be the mediator in the middle.

How did you stay in touch with your family? I stayed in touch with letters, mostly. We had satellite phones, but they were not advanced, so letters were the best way to keep in touch.

Do you recall the last day of your service? I don't know why, but the taxi broke down on the way to detachment. I ended up walking half a mile to the airport at Fort Hood.

What did you do after your service? I went straight to work in the oil field.

How did military service affect your life? It taught me discipline and made me

stronger, helped me deal with adversity and dealing with being gone away from your family.

SBEC position: Telecommunications specialist 1



TOMMY WARREN

Branch: U.S. Navy

Years in service: 2011–2017 and still in active reserves

Where you active in war? Operation Enduring Freedom. I was mainly off the Gulf of Amon and northern Arabian Gulf.

Why did you enlist? Most of my family has been in the military, either the Army or Navy. My great-grandpa was in World War II, and they were so close to Pearl Harbor, they could hear the bombs going off. I just wanted to see the world.

Do you remember your first days of boot camp? Yes. The first night was pretty rough. They kept us up for 48 hours straight. It was great receiving letters from home, and I made friends quickly.

What was your job? I helped build target folders and gave the pilots flight briefs on what they were striking and where they were going.

Memorable experiences: I think it was pretty interesting going to Nebraska and working at strategic command. We were in a bunker that was roughly 90 feet underground. There were six or seven doors you had to go through to get in. This was the bunker where George W. Bush went when 9/11 happened.

How did you stay in touch with your family? On one deployment, we would write letters. We would hit port every

month, and I had a SIM card and could call home.

SBEC position: General helper, construction



MAX BARNETT

Branch: U.S. Army

Years in service: 1968–1970

Were you drafted or did you enlist?

I was drafted last minute. I was getting ready to graduate from college at the University of Houston at the age of 26, and 26 was the last year you could be drafted. I went to the College Board, and they looked at the situation. The school did allow me to graduate before I was drafted. I didn't get to walk [during graduation ceremonies], but I did get to graduate.

Do you remember the first days of boot camp? The big thing I remember about boot camp was the appreciation of freedom. I can remember going out and not knowing what you were going to be doing that day or what they would do to you. I can remember sitting on the bus and seeing a car go around us. Inside was a young couple, and I couldn't help but think that they could stop on the side of the road and turn around and go the other way if they wanted to. They were free.

Where did you go while in the service?
El Paso

What was your job assignment?
I worked in electronics and maintained equipment for training.

Did you join any veteran organizations?
Yes. Right after I got out, I joined the

VFW and American Legion. I am not very active anymore, between work and life events.

SBEC position: Max retired in 2008 as our senior apparatus and electronics technician. He is currently working part-time as a general helper II in technical services.



ELROY KIECKE

Branch: U.S. Air Force

Years in service: 1950–1954

War served in: Korean conflict

Do you remember the first days of your service? There were so many men coming in after the Christmas holidays, they didn't have enough uniforms or barracks for everyone. I was still in civilian clothes for about five days before I received my uniforms.

I can remember being in line at the mess hall and seeing our training instructor talking to some guy. I looked at that guy, and he looked familiar, and then a few seconds later, I hear, "Private Kiecke, front and center!" I couldn't help but wonder what I did wrong. It ended up being Douglas Mundine from Burton; my family knew his family. He asked me if I took typing in high school, and I said yes. Just taking typing qualified me for a special program after basic training.

Where were you stationed? Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio for a little over two years. I then attended flight school. The Korean conflict was over before I finished flight school, and they were encouraging a reduction in military

personnel if they were accepted to a college. I had a letter from Sam Houston State University's dean, stating that I was accepted to the college. I left the military with an honorable discharge.

SBEC position: Board of directors, District 4



JERRY MACHAC

Branch: U.S. Air Force

Years in service: 1967–1973

War served in: Vietnam War

How did you keep in touch with your family? I didn't have much time to write, but my family would send me a letter every few days. There were weeks when we wouldn't get any mail and days where you would get mail every day. I mostly received letters from my grandma, my mom and aunt.

What were some of your duty assignments? My second duty assignment was at Beinh Hoa Air Force Base in Vietnam. I was there for one year and was awarded the United States Air Force Commendation Medal for Meritorious Service. I then left for Pope Air Force Base in North Carolina, where I made sergeant. In 1971, I was released from active obligated service, and in 1973, I received an honorable discharge from the U.S. Air Force.

What did you do after the military? I went to work at San Bernard Electric Cooperative as a staking technician.

SBEC position: Retired in 2009 from the right-of-way department and is currently working part time as a ROW agent.



KARL N. MICKLITZ

Branch: Paratrooper in the U.S. Army

Years in service: 1954–1956 National Guard. Went to Texas A&M, graduated 1960 and returned to the Army as a second lieutenant.

How long did it take you to prepare for a jump? You have to be really trained and attend airborne school. Even before I went to airborne school, I ran 5 miles every morning in a cemetery close to my home. They teach you how to put your parachute on, how to jump out, and the biggest thing is how to recover from the jump. I even broke my leg once. I recovered and went back to jumping as soon as I could. We would do night jumps, where you have no idea where you will land. We would land in water and have to swim fully clothed (boots and all). It was a physically demanding job.

Do you remember your first jump? The first jump, I remember so distinctly. It was out of a C-141 aircraft, and it just sucked me out so quickly.

How many jumps did you do during your career? I did 50 jumps during my career. Five were in Germany.

What was your rank when you retired? Colonel

Do you feel like your time in the service reflects on your career after the service? Yes. The leadership job was tremendous in the service. I went to a lot of leadership schools—I had to, if I wanted to be a commander.

SBEC position: Board of directors, District 2

Local Veterans Day Programs

Sunday, November 5

Industry Brethren Church, Honor Our Veterans service, 9 a.m. at Industry Fireman's Hall

Veterans Day Program and commemorative Air Force flower drop, 11 a.m. at Praha Catholic Church. Sponsored by Vietnam Vets, American Legion, VFW and Veterans Club

Friday, November 10

Breakfast and meet-and-greet, 8 a.m. at Waller High School library.

Veterans Day program, 10 a.m. at Waller High School gym. All veterans are invited. Sponsored by Waller High School student body organizations

Saturday, November 11

Homemade breakfast at Shelby American Legion Post #602, 4019 FM 1457 in Fayetteville. Open to the public; donations gratefully accepted. For more information, please call Jerry Kubala at (979) 378-2877.

Magnolia Historical Society Annual Veterans Day ceremony, 11 a.m. For more information, visit magnoliathistoricalociety.com.

Bellville American Legion pancake breakfast, 7 a.m. at the American Legion Hall
Bellville Soccer Association honors veterans from VFW and American Legion, 8:30 a.m. at Clark Park

Bellville Veterans Day program, 2 p.m. at the Austin County Fairgrounds

If you are interested in becoming a member of these organizations, please contact Bruce Harrison at colonelharrison@aol.com or, for auxiliary membership, email jenny4480@aol.com.

First Week in December

Shelby American Legion Post hosts a tamale sale. Advance orders are appreciated. Contact any of the Post members to order, or call Jerry Kubala at (979) 378-2877.

TRADING POST



FOR SALE

CRIB—Vintage, Jenny Lind, with mattress and bedding. Call (979) 865-3152.

WOOD HEATER—Cabinet style, very good condition, \$60. Call (361) 798-4510.

GENERATOR/COMPRESSOR/WELDER—Kohler Triton 900RS, 120/240 service, 50-amp; 50-200-amp welder, remote control, low oil shutoff. Call (979) 270-1213.

GENERATOR—Kohler AK10KES with electric start, remote start, 50-amp service, low oil shutoff. Call (979) 270-1213.

AIR COMPRESSOR—Kohler Industrial series AKAC120, 150 psi, dual head, twin tank, low oil shutoff. Call (979) 270-1213.

WATER/TRASH PUMP—Kohler Industrial Series-FKWP30, 3x3, low oil shutoff, quick-connect accessories, wheel kits for 9000RS & AK10KES. Call (979) 270-1213.

TREE FROG PLAY SET—Wave slide, wooden rope ladder, rock wall with rope, tire swing, 2 regular swings, glider swing, trapeze swing, 24-sq.-ft. deck, covered, \$1,750. Call (979) 733-7004 after 5 p.m.

2008 CADILLAC CT—69,000 miles, fully loaded, leather seats, sunroof, gray color, like new, \$12,000. Call (361) 798-2779.

BOAT—2003 Dynasty Fishmaster, 19 ft., center console, Suzuki DF 4-stroke motor w/approx. 130 hours; also Lowrance HDS7 fish-finding sonar and GPS with Nautic path chip and electric anchor. Call (979) 758-4887 or (979) 758-4768.

HAY—Cattle- and horse-quality, 5x5 ft., \$45 each. Call Andy at (979) 885-9670 or Charlie at (979) 885-8975.

SEWING NOTIONS—Dressmaking fabrics, linings, Bellville area. Call (979) 865-2481.

19-ACRE RANCH—With small house, 4 barns, 2 lakes, fenced for livestock, excellent grazing, 1 hr. NW of Houston off Hwy. 290 on FM 362. Motivated seller, asking price \$295,000. Call (702) 379-8218.

ROUND DINING ROOM TABLE—With 5 chairs, nice, \$50. Call (979) 877-5361.

WANTED

ROW DISK—1- or 2-row. Call (936) 245-5827.

ANTIQUE CARS, TRUCKS, CAMPERS—Any condition. Send photos to (713) 899-0999.

USED CATTLE OR CORRAL PANELS—Call (979) 877-7257.

FREE

EQUIPMENT—Poly irrigation hoses, ¾ in.; and 19-strand aircraft cable. Call (281) 658-8896.

SHOP/TRACTOR BARN—26x36x10ft. 3in., and 9ft. 3in. R, with 2 angle iron-framed 12-ft. swing doors, 1 man door. Metal sheeting screwed to wood studs/joists, bolted to concrete slab; recipient must dismantle and remove down to slab before November 10. Near Kenney. Photos available. Call (832) 250-3568.

SERVICES

FREE WILD HOG REMOVAL—Use dogs, well experienced, willing to travel. Call (832) 715-1130.

DRONE SERVICES—FAA-certified. Call (979) 877-9160.

DEADLINE: JANUARY 19, 2018

GOVERNMENT-IN-ACTION YOUTH TOUR

JUNE 6-15, 2018



You're a high school student. You're smart; you have big dreams. Maybe you've never been out of the state, and maybe you've never flown on a plane, but you want to travel—experience a big city, visit historic landmarks and meet people. Sound like you? Then the Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., is your tour. Apply now!

For more information, visit sbec.org.

Deadline is 5 p.m., January 19, 2018!

ADVERTISE IN THE TRADING POST

SBEC members are invited to submit ads for the Trading Post to P.O. Box 1208, Bellville, TX 77418 or Isamford@sbec.org. However, no commercial business ads will be accepted. Ads are placed on a first-come, first-served basis, and we reserve the right to refuse any ad. Please submit your ad by the 20th of each month. (If you submit an ad by November 20, it will appear in the January issue). Your ad will be published in two consecutive issues, then deleted. If you want the ad to run another two months, you must resubmit the ad. The ad will not exceed four consecutive months.



San Bernard Electric Co-op
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Your Tomorrow's Energy
Cooperative



Save money on the bird and all the trimmings this Thanksgiving using San Bernard EC's Co-op Connections card.

After the feasting is done, take advantage of cash-back online shopping and local discounts for all of your gift-buying needs.



Find all the ways to save at
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