

# THE LAMP



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# KEEPING THE CO-OP STRONG THROUGH SERVICE

by C.L. Harmon

**M**et the next board member in line to be spotlighted. Robert Burk has been a board member for nine years and has begun his fourth term. He is very informed about the Cooperative business and gave me an education about how it all works.

Although Burk agrees with many of the opinions of his previously published fellow trustees, he felt that they had already done an excellent job of touching on many of the topics pertaining to IEC. So, he decided that informing members about the intricate grid delivering electric to their homes, and the problems that may disrupt that flow needed to be addressed.

Burk is not an electrician by trade but while working in the capacity of his chosen profession, he had an opportunity to be around linemen and became interested in how it all worked. He has since been a student as well, taking classes in EPA regulations, cost of natural gas, coal transportation as well as others pertaining to the power business.

He is an oil and gas producer and owner of Red Fork Oil Production Inc. He started this company after graduating from Spartan School of Aeronautics in 1971 and purchasing two

stripper wells. He had a job in Tulsa to make ends meet and so would service his wells at night with a flashlight. Within ten years he had over 100 producing wells.

He is married to Jayne and has four children. In addition, he recently sold 90 percent of his production and is “trying semi-retirement.”

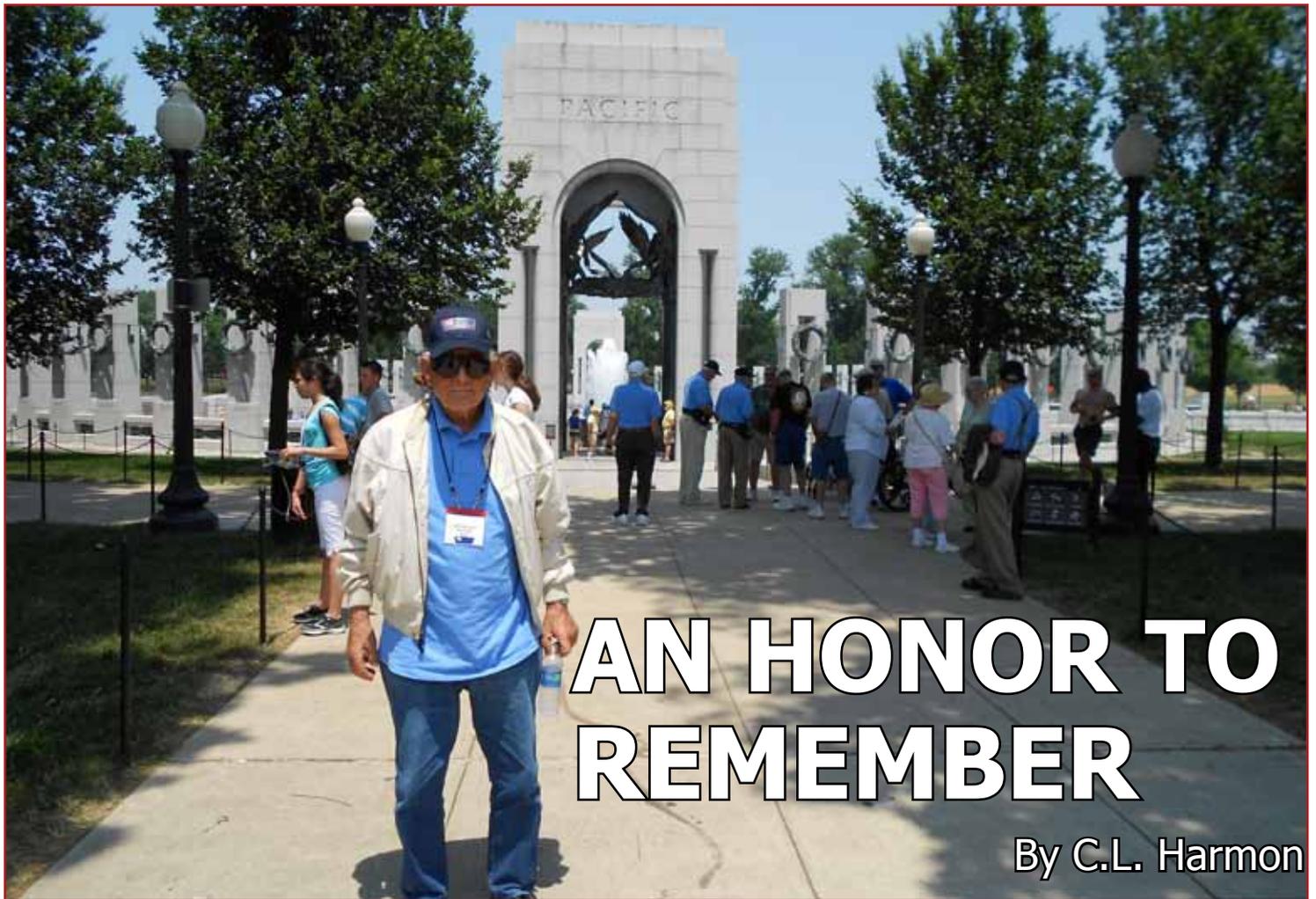
Burk began by explaining where the electricity members consume comes from. “We buy our electricity from KAMO Power. We are one of 17 co-ops who do,” he said. Now, time for a trick question. Who owns KAMO...? IEC does, along with the other 16 co-ops who purchase power from KAMO. However IEC and KAMO are completely different entities.

KAMO owns the large power lines which transport power to the 18 substations that serve IEC. Another trick question. What does KAMO own? Sorry! It’s not in your text book. The answer: KAMO is one of six

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*“We buy our electricity from KAMO Power. We are one of 17 co-ops who do,” - Robert Burk*





# AN HONOR TO REMEMBER

By C.L. Harmon

Carl Davis

Photo by Larry Davis

*“I’ve just got one eye and it’s not very good. I would like to get both eyes and go back and see it again,” - Carl Davis*

A man's travels will always tell the stories of his life. Fortunately for me, there were several destinations from which to gather information about this man of few words. His two sons were quite a big help as well in filling in the gaps about their father's life and the recent honor he experienced.

Long time Cleveland resident Carl Davis recently found himself in our nation's Capitol to be honored for his service to his country during WWII. He joined the Navy in 1943 and was sent to the South Pacific Theater and the war against the Empire of Japan. He worked in the engine room

of a cargo ship, which followed the Seventh Fleet into combat zones to replenish fuel, ammunition, water and other necessities.

Like many before him, Davis was chosen to participate in the “Honor Flights Network” program which began in 2005 with six small planes flying out of Springfield, Ohio. That trip took 12 World War II veterans to visit the memorial in Washington, DC. The program has grown exponentially over the past few years. It is continually expanding to more cities to ensure that all WWII veterans who wish to see the memorial, completed in 2004 in their honor, are given

the opportunity. It goes without saying that the operation is somewhat of an urgent one due to the alarming rate WWII veterans are dying...approximately 1000 per day, according to 2008 statistics.

Davis, now 88, was actually denied this go-around due to availability, but a cancellation opened a seat and his son Larry jumped on the opportunity. All veterans are required to travel with a companion to assist them in getting around. Carl's son Larry, a veteran of the Vietnam War, was all too happy to escort his father and hear the exploits of warriors from another generation. However, compan-

ions must pay their own way whereas veterans' flights are paid through the network. For Larry though, it was a bargain to good to pass up.

"I thought that it was such a great experience and dad really seemed to enjoy it," Larry said. He confessed however, that he thought he might hear some complaints due to the rigorous schedule planned for them. But he heard no such complaints. Instead he said that the veterans spoke about their war experiences and many discovered that they served in close proximity at different times during their tour.

The trip began at 4:30 a.m. with the Davis' bussed to Tulsa International Airport, along with 100 more veterans and escorts, for a two hour flight to Baltimore Washington International Airport. Through the use of bus transport and wheelchairs (to get around quicker not because they were needed by the veterans) the group was taken to the WWII Memorial as well as the Korean, Vietnam and Lincoln Memorials. Other memorials were visited on the trip down 'Memorial Lane' such as Arlington National Cemetery.

"The entire trip lasted less than a day and it was a lot to take in," Larry said. When Carl was asked what he thought of the Memorial, he only replied, "I've just got one eye and it's not very good. I

would like to get both eyes and go back and see it again," he quipped.

This story, however, is not just about an honor but about a man who fought a war and was fortunate enough to come home alive. A feat 400,000 of his fellow servicemen were not able to complete.

Carl came home and built a life in the country he defended and has lived to not waste one day that he has been given since the war. Living in Terlton when he enlisted, he moved to Cleveland after being discharged. He would however move on to Tulsa to find work, and would return to Cleveland in 1956.

Speaking about a man's travels, before returning to Cleveland the second time, Davis worked in concrete and traveled to several states building sports stadiums. He was even employed on the stadium job in Cleveland in circa 1953.

After settling down, Davis dabbled in owning a plumbing store, a sand plant, doing dirt work and his favorite endeavor... working on cars. "I grewed [sic] up with it. I bought

my first car when I was 12, a 1927 Dodge," Carl said about his love for fixing up old cars. Davis owns a shop just outside of town where his passion for cars is displayed as a sort of historical automotive museum with cars of every type from generations long past.

In many ways, Carl is exactly what he fought for in WWII, the freedom to be who he wanted to be with the right to pursue the family, friends, professions and the hobbies which he desired. He is a quiet man who is quite proud of his service to his country which was very apparent even in the few words that he spoke of his time in the war. But more than that, he is one of the multitudes of men who came home to live a life that honored all those who were denied the opportunity after making the ultimate sacrifice in hopes that all could live as they choose. ♦

*"I thought that it was such a great experience and dad really seemed to enjoy it," - Larry Davis*



Carl Davis. Photo by C.L. Harmon

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G&T (generating and transporting) cooperatives that own AECEI (Associated Electric Cooperative Inc.), which is a wholesale generation cooperative supplying power to those 6 G&T power cooperatives. The 6 G&T supply 51 local electric cooperatives in Missouri, northeast Oklahoma which includes IEC and southeast Iowa serving more than 875,000 members. This is called the 3 tier system and has worked very well to control cost to all members.

Burk moves into the area of costs and its impact on members. "IEC has the lowest energy cost of the 17 co-ops who purchase from KAMO," he said. This has been done by efficiency, according to Burk. With programs such as automatic meter reading, combining positions, bringing services in-house, reducing board members and administrative evaluations, IEC remains "ahead in the ball game," he added.

In addition, Burk is also a member of the KAMO board. This position helps him see just how far ahead IEC is and what is happening with the other 16 cooperatives as well as new directions cooperatives could venture.

However, not all is positive news. Burk also explained about the

restrictions being placed on coal burning by the EPA and their impact on member's monthly bills. "Members need to understand that the EPA is costing them more because of these regulations. I think that Congress would like to know that people are concerned about how rate increases affect them," Burk said. He further explained that ecological factors such as the protection of the endangered burying beetle effect the rate they are charged. The future may be in the dark as well with another pesky American tax called carbon tax, which he says is in the making. This alone could cost each household another \$20-50 per month.

In his closing Burk praised the IEC employees and management. He also stated that the board of trustees are there to make decisions which are made by the majority and not one trustee, good or bad.

"I have hopes of serving for years to come, if needed. I would like to continue as long as I can be of help and contribute to the members. And I hope to help keep IEC a strong co-op with low rates and good service for as long as possible." ♦

**NOTICE OF AUCTION** Indian Electric Cooperative will be conducting a sealed bid auction open to the general public on 14 number of office chairs. The auction will run until 4:00 p.m. on October 20th, 2011.

Bidders need to send their sealed bid with the following information: Name, Daytime Phone Number, Address, Amount of bid, and Number of Chairs

Items up for auction may be inspected at IEC's main headquarters located 2 miles South of Cleveland on U.S. Highway 64. Bids will be opened on October 21st by IEC. Winners will be notified by phone call with directions on how to submit payment and to schedule pickup of the chair won. All chairs are offered in an "As-is", "Where-is" condition without warranty expressed or implied. IEC reserves the right to reject any and all bids.



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