



Honoring Our Heroes: Veterans Day Reflections

BY JEFF WADSWORTH PRESIDENT & CEO

November 11 is more than just a date on the calendar; it's Veterans Day – a day rich with meaning: freedom, patriotism, sacrifice, and service. For me, it embodies all these sentiments and so much more. As Americans, it's vital that we never forget the significance of this day, a pointed reminder of the sacrifices made by those who have honorably served our nation in both wartime and peacetime.

The Historical Significance of Veterans Day

The importance of November 11 is rooted in history. The fighting of World War I – often referred to as “The Great War” – came to a halt on this day in 1918, when an armistice was declared between the Allied nations and Germany at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. This moment marked the end of what was then considered “the war to end all wars.” Veterans Day is thus observed on November 11 every year, preserving the memory of this pivotal moment in history, regardless of the day of the week.

Our veterans, both living and deceased, have made profound sacrifices. They left their families, faced perilous conditions, and endured personal hardships to safeguard our freedoms. We owe these courageous men and women more than mere gratitude; we owe them our unwavering support and commitment to their well-being.

Our Commitment to Veterans and Active-Duty Service Members

At our cooperative, we are proud to have veterans and active-duty service members within our team. We actively recruit these individuals, recognizing the invaluable skills they honed in the military – adaptability, problem-solving, and leadership under pressure. These qualities seamlessly translate to success in our mission, whether in the field or in administrative roles. We deeply appreciate the unique experiences they bring to our team and are

dedicated to supporting them as integral members of our cooperative family.

We also acknowledge the ongoing sacrifices of active-duty service members who juggle military responsibilities with civilian careers. We are committed to providing them with the resources and support necessary to excel in both roles.

I invite you to turn to page 7 to learn about Mike Kroells, a First Sergeant in the U.S. Military with the South Dakota Army National Guard and Construction and Maintenance Supervisor at Poudre Valley REA. Mike joined the South Dakota Army National Guard in 2001 and has served in Afghanistan, participated in training missions along the southern border, and traveled extensively throughout South America, Europe, and various states in the U.S.



Our dedication to veterans and active-duty personnel extends beyond the walls of our cooperative. We actively support organizations that offer services and resources to military members and veterans, ensuring they receive the care and assistance they deserve.

This Veterans Day – and every day – we honor the invaluable contributions of those who have served our country. Empowering veterans and active-duty personnel is not just a responsibility; it's a privilege. Through employment opportunities, community engagement, and continuous support, we strive to give back to those who have sacrificed so much for our freedom.



ABOUT YOUR CO-OP

PVREA serves energy solutions to more than 56,000 homes and businesses in Boulder, Larimer, and Weld counties. We are a member-owned co-op, led by those we serve.

OUR MISSION

We are committed to providing safe, reliable, efficient energy solutions with exceptional service to our members.



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FACES, PLACES & VOICES OF



MIKE KROELLS

Recognizing Active-Duty Military & Veterans



Meet Mike Kroells, a First Sergeant in the U.S. Military with the South Dakota Army National Guard and our Construction and Maintenance Supervisor here at PVREA. A family man dedicated to both service and community; Mike has spent 23 years serving his country.

His journey began in February 2001 when he joined the South Dakota Army National Guard during his junior year of high school. Initially unsure of his future, Mike found purpose and direction through his military service. The events of 9/11 during his senior year were a pivotal moment, opening his eyes to the importance of being part of something bigger than himself.

Mike's commitment to service is evident in his career trajectory. After high school, he attended lineman school and volunteered for deployment to Afghanistan in 2004. Serving for a year in Afghanistan, he provided base security, was a 240 Bravo gunner on a gun truck, and helped ensure the safety of engineering projects.

His experiences in the military, as well as over 13 years as a lineman and nearly two decades working in the cooperative world, have shaped his approach to life and work, instilling a sense of duty and teamwork in everything he does.

With a workload that often takes him away from home and his family, Mike credits the unwavering support of his wife, Jessica, for helping him achieve the goals he has set for himself.

"Without her, I wouldn't have been able to make a career out of this," Mike acknowledges. "She was the one that pushed me to always be more."

The culture at PVREA also plays a crucial role in Mike's ability to balance his military and work responsibilities. From the top down, everyone steps up to support Mike whenever he is away training. Whether covering for his daily duties at PVREA or reaching out to help

make life easier for Mike's wife and kids, when Mike is sometimes away for weeks at a time, there are people there to help make life easier back home.

"The biggest takeaway I get is people being absolutely 100% supportive of my career," Mike said. "That is the most important thing to me."



Mike's dedication to service extends beyond himself and made an impact on his oldest son, Aaden. Following in Mike's footsteps, Aaden, a Poudre High School graduate, also joined the South Dakota National Guard in September of 2020.

"It's humbling to sit back and see. We tend to focus on the things we could do better as parents," Mike said. "To have your son follow in those footsteps, it's sweet to watch."

Knowing he has a heart of service and is also a part of something bigger than himself — it's been fun to experience from a dad perspective."

As Mike continues to work towards becoming a Sergeant Major, he remains committed to his community and encourages others to do the same.

"Northern Colorado is a great place to live and grow. Seeing the 85th celebration with our membership, it's clear we have a membership that's caring and very selfless and community based. I'd encourage our membership to reach out and thank a veteran, and beyond that reach out to a neighbor and help a neighbor. Try to put others before yourself, and I think the world will be a better place."



Fall into Savings

As the leaves begin to change and the days grow shorter, it's time to start thinking about how to stay cozy and comfortable during the upcoming winter months.

At Poudre Valley REA, we're committed to helping you, our members, save energy and money. Here are a few tips to help you fall into savings this season.

- **Weatherize Your Home:** A well-insulated home can significantly reduce energy consumption and heating costs. Seal up any cracks or gaps around windows and doors to prevent drafts. Consider upgrading to energy-efficient windows and doors if yours are old or outdated.
- **Adjust Your Thermostat:** While it's tempting to crank up the heat on chilly days, lowering your thermostat by just a few degrees can make a big difference. Consider using programmable thermostats to adjust the temperature throughout the day and night automatically.
- **Maintain Your HVAC System:** Regular heating and cooling system maintenance can help it operate more efficiently and prevent costly

breakdowns. Schedule a professional tune-up before the start of the heating season.

- **Take Advantage of Natural Light:** Open curtains and blinds during the day to let in natural sunlight. This can help reduce your reliance on artificial lighting.
- **Be Mindful of Energy Vampires:** Many electronic devices continue to draw power even when they're turned off. Unplug them when not in use to save energy.
- **Cook Smart:** Use energy-efficient appliances and cook with lids on pots and pans to retain heat.

By following these tips, you can significantly reduce your energy consumption and enjoy a cozy, comfortable winter without breaking the bank. Remember, every little bit helps!

Read more energy-efficient information
www.pvrea.coop



Celebrate Businesses In Your Community

Small Business Saturday Is 11/30

Shop local and save — with our Co-op Connections program, you can enjoy a variety of local deals from small businesses in the area.



Scan the QR code or head over to www.pvrea.coop/co-op-connections to learn more!





Local Value

Budget Friendly: Poudre Valley REA has the lowest rates in the state and routinely returns member credits back to our membership.

Doing More: We also provide you tools, resources, rate structures, discount programs, and payment plans that ensure our product fits your lifestyle.

Helping Hand: And we give back – supporting non-profits, community partners, and your neighbors in need.

2025 & Beyond: In next month's issue, we'll dive into how your co-op plans to continue leading the state in low-cost, predictable electric rates for years to come.



And we'll revisit the ways PVREA provides you with local value.

Rebates for Electric Products & Appliances

Members have numerous rebates available to help lower the upfront cost of purchasing new electric products and appliances.

Purchase your new electric product/appliance, then submit your rebate within 90 days. Include any receipt(s) along with any requested documentation. Rebates are typically processed in 6-8 weeks and either applied to your next billing cycle as a credit if under \$250 or mailed to you as a check if \$250 or more.

Browse your available rebates by visiting www.pvrea.coop/rebates



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LAST CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Empower Grants award teachers with funds up to \$2,000 for classroom projects that focus on STEAM learning objectives – science, technology, engineering, arts, and math.

Submit your application online by Nov 8 at www.pvrea.coop/empower-grant-program



SAFETY CORNER

May Your Holidays Be Merry & Bright



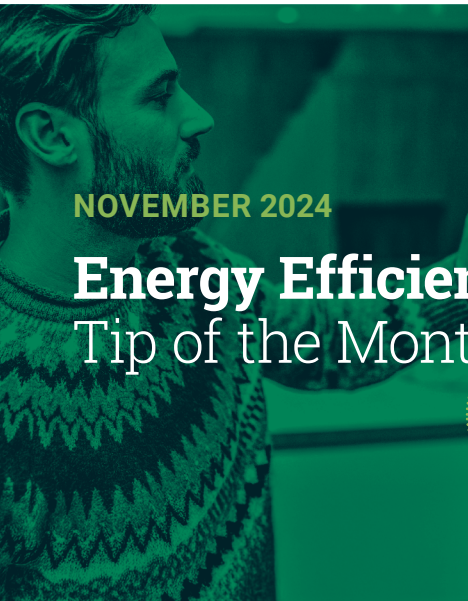
It's hard to believe we'll soon gather with family and friends to celebrate the holiday season. This festive time of year brings joy and warmth, but as the weather gets cooler and we spend more time indoors, the holidays can also increase your risk of electrical and fire hazards.

As your local electric cooperative, our team cares about your well-being. This month, we'd like to share a few practical tips to help you stay safe during the holiday season.

- Before you deck the halls, check electrical cords and light strands to make sure they aren't frayed or damaged.
- Double-check the holiday light strands outside to ensure they're rated for outdoor use.
- Never leave scented candles burning unattended.

- Test smoke alarms regularly – better yet, check them before your holiday guests arrive.
- If you notice your lights dim or flicker when you turn on certain appliances (like microwaves or decorations), it could be a sign that your circuit is overloading. Try plugging those items into different outlets or using extension cords that are rated for the appropriate amperage.

By following these simple safety measures, you can help ensure you and your guests have a safe and enjoyable Thanksgiving. Find more electrical safety information at www.pvrea.coop



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Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



If you're heading out of town during the holiday season, remember to set your home to vacation mode.

You can save energy while you're away by lowering your thermostat a few degrees or creating an "away" schedule with a smart or programmable thermostat.

Newer water heaters include a vacation mode setting to help you save on water heating costs, or you can simply lower the temperature manually.

Small actions can also stack up to energy savings. Unplug devices that consume energy when they're not in use, including phone chargers, toothbrush chargers, TVs, and gaming consoles.

Our office will be closed » Thursday & Friday, 11/28-29

From our co-op family to yours, we hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

