



Farmers Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation

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## **Local veteran to participate in Honor Flight 2016 sponsored by Farmers RECC**

Charles Geraldts of Munfordville will be among the war veterans who will travel to Washington, D.C., on Saturday, August 27, as part of this year's Honor Flight. He will be on the first mission organized by Honor Flight Kentucky, the state's newest chapter that is based in Winchester. The veterans will complete a one-day tour of war and military memorials erected in their honor in the nation's capital. The 85-year-old Korean War veteran will represent Farmers RECC, which is sponsoring his all-expense paid trip.

This is the sixth year Farmers RECC and Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives have sponsored the flight and the first flight in partnership with Honor Flight Kentucky. Forty-eight Kentucky residents who fought in World War II, the Korean War or the Vietnam War are set to make the trip.

"We are proud to support the service of Mr. Geraldts and other heroes from Kentucky," said Bill Prather, Farmers RECC President and CEO. "The veterans we've sponsored in the past have returned saying the Honor Flight was one of the greatest days of their lives. I hope Mr. Geraldts will have a similar experience."

Mr. Geraldts joined the United States Air Force in 1951 and began working in the Medic Ward in 1952, transporting patients by air, ground and overseas.

The veterans will fly from Lexington's Blue Grass Airport to Washington, D.C. for a full day of honors and sightseeing. The veterans will see a changing of the guard ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery, and veterans will also participate in a wreath-laying service at the tomb. The group will also see memorials dedicated to those who served in the Air Force and Marine Corps in Arlington. Finally, they will visit the World War II and Korean War memorials on the National Mall.

To further honor this year's Honor Flight participants, Farmers RECC is helping to organize a special welcome for their return. Families, friends and supporters are invited to arrive at Blue Grass Airport upon the veterans' return on Aug. 27 to cheer for and greet them. There will be additional parking available at the airport to accommodate the crowd.

The Honor Flight sponsored by Farmers RECC and Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives is part of a larger national network that has 130 chapters in 44 states. The inaugural Honor Flight took place in May 2005, when six small planes flew out of Springfield, Ohio, taking 12 veterans.

Last year alone, more than 20,000 veterans nationally flew to Washington, D.C. to see their memorials, and since the 2005 inception nearly 160,000 veterans have participated in the program.

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