**Caption:** *Kentuckian Bobby Gibson served in an artillery unit in the U.S. Army’s 101st Airborne Division in the Vietnam War. During a 12-month tour of duty, he was out of the A Shau Valley and away from fighting along the Ho Chi Minh trail for less than 24 hours.*

**Veterans, thank you for your service**

This month our thoughts turn to Thanksgiving and the family feasts that often accompany it. But in our hurry to get to the turkey and stuffing, we often overlook another important date: Veteran’s Day.

Kentucky is home to more than 300,000 veterans deserving of our gratitude for their service to this country. I’m proud to count many of them as owner-members of (Co-op).

(Spell out number of veteran employees) veterans are employees of our co-op. [Optional] They include: (List employee name, job title, and branch of service).

For 10 years, (Co-op) has honored veterans by joining with Kentucky’s Touchstone Energy Cooperatives to sponsor Honor Fight. The all-expense paid, one-day tour of Washington, D.C., takes veterans to see memorials dedicated to their service and sacrifices.

Veterans of World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War were scheduled to go on this year’s Honor Flight. Among the group is two-time Bronze Star recipient Bobby Gibson, who served in an artillery unit in the U.S. Army’s 101st Airborne Division in the Vietnam War.

During a 12-month tour of duty in the Vietnam jungle, he spent most of his time positioned behind a 155 mm howitzer, an artillery piece that could strike with accuracy up to nine miles away. Large Chinook helicopters were constantly airlifting Gibson and his squad to “where the action was.” The fighting was intense and too often lethal.

It took “a little bit of bravery and a little bit of silliness” to survive the experience, he said.

Gibson and other veterans who were on the roster for Honor Flight 2021 are profiled in articles found at <https://honorflightky.org/aboutus/news-3>.

As we give thanks this month, let’s remember the blessings of America that have been brought to us by the men and women who stepped into the gap in defense of our nation.

To all veterans, we thank you for your service.

**Sidebar**

**(Co-op) salutes two Honor Flight heroes**

(Insert name #1), a (age)-year-old (war) veteran, and (Insert name #2), a (age)-year-old (war) veteran, are (Co-op’s) Honor Flight honorees for 2021.

(Insert last name #1) served (Insert details about the sponsored veteran’s military service.)

(Insert last name #2) was (Insert details about the sponsored veteran’s military service.)

The two were sponsored by (Co-op) on an Honor Flight that was scheduled to Washington, D.C., in September. Unfortunately, this year’s flight, coordinated by Winchester-based Honor Flight Kentucky, had to be canceled due to safety concerns related to the coronavirus, but we hope their mission will take place next year.

[Optional if you have a profile] You can read about these heroes at [Insert Co-op URL].