



MESSAGE
FROM
PRESIDENT/
CEO

**RYAN
BARTLETT**

Honoring Those Who Served

THIS MEMORIAL DAY, as we gather with family and friends, let's remember that true appreciation for our veterans extends far beyond a single holiday.

At Taylor Electric Cooperative, we believe that honoring those who served—especially those who made the ultimate sacrifice—requires action, not just reflection.

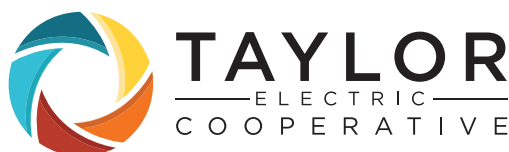
May is Military Appreciation Month, and at Taylor EC, we care about veterans and show our appreciation through our actions and ongoing commitment to them and their families. We're grateful to have veterans within our ranks, and we're proud to serve the vets and their families in our community with safe and reliable electricity.

We're not alone in our efforts to honor and serve vets. Taylor EC is part of a network of more than 900 electric cooperatives across the country that support and honor our nation's veterans of all generations. Across the nationwide network of electric cooperatives, spanning 48 states and serving 13.5% of U.S. consumers, programs promote and support veteran hiring practices.

The Department of War is one of the largest energy consumers worldwide and the single largest energy consumer in the U.S. Electric cooperatives across the country work closely with military installations, providing electricity and partnering on various projects.

Not only do we pause on Memorial Day to remember the sacrifice and service of those who gave all, but we also recognize several other military anniversaries and events this month, including Military Spouse Appreciation Day and Armed Forces Day.

Taylor Electric is proud to be part of the electric cooperative community that honors and supports veterans of all ages, ranks and branches of the military. Please join us in taking a moment to show your appreciation to a veteran—not just this month but every month.





Always Look Up

Don't ignore power lines around you.

CONTACT WITH OVERHEAD power lines is a leading cause of electrical fatalities. Follow these tips from Electrical Safety Foundation International to keep safe from overhead power line contact.

Be aware of power lines around your home. Educating yourself about what's on the utility pole can help you avoid injury.

Most poles have primary overhead power lines at the top that carry electricity from substations over long distances at high voltage.

A little farther down is often a transformer that looks like a large box or bucket on the pole; this converts energy from the overhead power line to the safer level used in homes and buildings.

Next are the service lines that carry electricity to homes. Telecommunications lines carry services like phone, cable and internet to homes and are often the lowest lines on the pole.

Recognize the electrical service entrance to your home; this area can be dangerous if you come into contact with it.

Keep yourself and any tools at least 10 feet away from any power lines, and never touch anything in contact with a power line. If work needs to be done around a power line, call your electric cooperative first.

Carry ladders and other long tools or equipment horizontally to avoid accidental contact with electricity.

Always assume downed power lines are live. Stay at least 35 feet—or three car lengths—away from a downed line. Electricity can jump, or arc, and cause injury or death.

If you see a downed power line, call 911 and Taylor Electric Cooperative.

Taylor Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

CONTACT US

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**Outage
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**LOCAL
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HANDY WAYS TO PAY YOUR BILL

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(325) 793-8500. Payments credited immediately.

IN PERSON

Hours Monday–Friday, 7:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

Merkel 226 CR 287, Merkel 79536

Abilene 7966 Highway 83, Abilene 79602

Payments credited immediately.

DROP BOX

Merkel office located near the entrance of the building.

Abilene office drive by box located on the south east end of the parking lot

Payments credited next business day.

NOTICE

Effective June 1, 2024, all credit/debit card transactions will be assessed a 2.45% convenience fee.

VISIT US ONLINE

taylorelectric.com



Check us out at
TexasCoopPower.com/taylor

SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

May 2026



Robert Giddings, 20 Years
MASTER ELECTRICIAN



Rodney Russell, 20 Years
ADVANCED UTILITY ENGINEERING TECHNICIAN



Ryan Holmes, 15 Years
ENERGY SERVICES REPRESENTATIVE



Rounding Up for a Reason

OPERATION ROUND UP is a simple yet powerful way for members of Taylor Electric Cooperative to make a meaningful impact in their community. By choosing to round up their monthly electric bill to the nearest dollar, members contribute just a few extra cents each month—small change that adds up to something big.

Every dollar collected through Operation Round Up stays local and is directed toward supporting volunteer fire departments that serve the rural communities right here in our area. These departments are often made up of dedicated volunteers who rely on community support for essential equipment, training, and resources. The funds raised help ensure they can respond quickly and effectively when emergencies arise, keeping families, homes, and land safe.

This program is a direct reflection of one of the 7 Cooperative Principles: Concern for the Community, and has donated over \$1 million to the volunteer fire departments serving you, the members, since 2014. Taylor Electric Cooperative is not just a utility provider—it's a member-driven organization committed to improving the quality of life in the areas it serves.

By participating in Operation Round Up, members play an active role in strengthening their community. It's an easy, affordable way to give back and support the neighbors and first responders who make rural living safer and stronger for everyone.

For more information, or to ensure you are making a difference through Operation Round-Up call our office at (325)793-8500, and one of our Member Service Representatives will be happy to assist.



Then & Now: Closing the Electrification Gap in Texas

BY FRANK GALLANT, RE MAGAZINE, JANUARY 25, 2026

BACK IN 2010, Charles Boisseau, a writer for Texas Co-op Power, drove an hour north from the magazine office in Austin to the small town of Bartlett, the birthplace of Texas' rural electrification program. He had the address of the first farmhouse to get power, but when he got there, all he found was overgrown acreage on a gravel road about a half-mile outside of town.

At his desk the next day, he started digging into the early history of Bartlett Electric Cooperative, a distribution system now serving 12,550 members and over 16,000 meters in five very rural counties: Bell, Burleson, Lee, Milam and Williamson.

Boisseau learned that Bartlett proper got electric lights in 1905, but it was another 30 years before the farmers in the surrounding rural areas got them. This was, of course, the way electrification played out; nationwide, only 10% of American farms had power before the federal Rural Electrification

Administration was created in 1935.

That same year, three local farmers put up \$50 each to create a utility originally named Bartlett Community Light & Power Co. BCL&P soon applied for a \$33,000 loan from REA to build 59 miles of distribution lines. The farmers contracted with the municipal utility in town for power supply and other services, including meter reading.

BCL&P employees and volunteers began setting poles in November 1935. Three months later, on March 7, 1936, Charles Saage, the owner with his wife, Lydia, of that farmhouse Boisseau went looking for, threw the switch on the first section of line to be energized. This was a few days after they had put down a \$5 deposit so an electric meter could be installed.

"They were the first on the line going down that road out of Bartlett. That was the reason they got electricity before anybody else," Mary Saage, the 90-year-old widow of the Saages' son Curtis, told Boisseau.

Separate from Boisseau's research, Horace Keith, a BCL&P employee who later served as general manager, remembered in an interview that it was "a 2,300-volt single-phase line," and it ran for 2 or 3 miles east of town "to some of the neighbors close in."

The editor of the Bartlett Tribune summed up what was going on outside of town this way: "The movement now on foot to supply electricity to the rural homes surrounding Bartlett should meet with a welcome response from the citizenship of this community. ... Electricity comes as a willing and untiring servant to relieve those who work in the home of much tiresome labor. Rural homes need the benefits of electricity even more than town and city homes."

Mary Saage, whose first summer job was in BCL&P's office, showed Boisseau a black-and-white photo of her in-laws' gable-roofed farmhouse, barn and outbuildings. If you look closely, you can make out a slender power pole in the lower right-hand corner.

When the Texas Legislature adopted the Electric Cooperative Corporation Act in 1937, BCL&P could obtain a state charter to organize as a member-owned electric co-op.

The inscription on a historical marker alongside State Highway 95, which passes through Bartlett's town center, says that "Bartlett Electric Cooperative played an important role in the modernization of area farms." It also says that it was the first REA-financed co-op in the U.S. to be energized.