

For Immediate Release Contact Person: Carrie Baribeau, Communication Specialist May 6, 2025

Donation Helps Recognize High School Students Committed to Serve Our Nation

From California, Texas, Mississippi, and the Great Lakes, these are just a few of the destinations for 31 high school seniors who have dedicated themselves to serving our country in the Air Force, Army, Army National Guard, Marines or Navy. The 4th Annual High School to Heroes Banquet recently recognized these students. The keynote speaker was Chief Master Sergeant Roger Towberman, a Cumberland High School graduate. He received many awards during his distinguished career, where he filled many leadership roles at the squadron, group, wing, Major Command and Combatant Command levels. He remarked, "Take time to help others, you will surpass your expectations, and every morning starts with exercise."

Barron Electric Cooperative recently donated \$1,500 to the Cumberland American Legion-Anderson Thompson Post 98 to help with expenses associated with the High School to Heroes banquet. Jim Richie, organizer of the event, said, "We greatly appreciate Barron Electric's support of the High School to Heroes Banquet, which shows support to the newest members of the U.S. military. We could not do this without the generous support of the community." Aaron Torud, General Manager of Barron Electric Cooperative, commented, "We express our gratitude to these students and their dedication to our freedom."

Funds for Barron Electric's donations are derived from the Federated Youth Foundation, an administrative trust overseeing unclaimed cashback credits of former members. The Federated Youth Foundation has specific requirements for which the funds can be used. Legally, Barron Electric cannot use funds from cashback credits to reduce rates. Barron Electric has served the rural area since 1936 and currently provides electricity to nearly 20,000 members.
