



Boots and Badges Receives \$7,000 from South Plains Electric Cooperative and CoBank

LUBBOCK, TX (September 3, 2020) – Boots and Badges will receive a \$7,000 donation, just in time for their annual fundraiser, from South Plains Electric Cooperative and CoBank.

Boots and Badges was created to help local first responders and their families who have experienced a catastrophic event. While this has always been a worthy cause, the events that happened in January of this year are a reminder of the value of this organization. Unfortunately, Lubbock lost two first responders and another was seriously injured working an accident during icy conditions. The need to continue supporting families during unfortunate events as such as these is important.

South Plains Electric Cooperative's goal is to provide affordable and reliable electricity at the lowest possible cost. SPEC abides by the Seven Cooperative Principles, and one Principle is commitment to community. The Cooperative gives back to many charities and organizations in the local communities they serve. It's part of the cooperative difference.

CoBank is a cooperative bank serving vital industries throughout rural America. The bank provides loans, leases, export financing and other financial services to agribusinesses and rural power, water and communications providers in all 50 states. As a cooperative, CoBank is also committed to supporting the communities it serves and regularly partners with its customers to invest in worthwhile charitable causes.

"South Plains Electric Cooperative was happy to partner with CoBank, and together, help make a difference locally," said General Manager Dale Ancell. "Our goal is to improve the quality of life in our communities, and that reaches beyond providing electricity. We will do all we can to help locally."

Aaron Cristan, Co-founder of Boots and Badges, said, "Your generous donation to Boots and Badges of the South Plains will help serve First Responders and their families, build appreciation and respect for their work and enhance public safety. Thank you for your support South Plains Electric and CoBank."

South Plains Electric Cooperative's donation was matched by CoBank through its Sharing Success program. Sharing Success was established in 2012 to celebrate the International Year of the Cooperative. Since the program's inception, CoBank and its customers have together provided more than \$44 million in support to charitable organizations across the nation.

"CoBank is delighted to support South Plains Electric Cooperative and Boots and Badges through our Sharing Success program," said Dean Church, vice president, CoBank. "Sharing Success matches the

charitable contributions of our customers to the organizations and causes they care about most, allowing the bank to make a positive impact and fulfill our mission of service to rural America.”

About South Plains Electric Cooperative

South Plains Electric Cooperative, a local Touchstone Energy® Cooperative, serves more than 60,000 connected meters in all or part of 18 counties. When you see Touchstone Energy, you know you are being served with accountability, integrity, innovation and commitment to community. For more information about South Plains Electric Cooperative, visit the Co-op’s website at SPEC.coop.

About CoBank

CoBank is a \$152 billion cooperative bank serving vital industries across rural America. The bank provides loans, leases, export financing and other financial services to agribusinesses and rural power, water and communications providers in all 50 states. The bank also provides wholesale loans and other financial services to affiliated Farm Credit associations serving more than 70,000 farmers, ranchers and other rural borrowers in 23 states around the country.

CoBank is a member of the Farm Credit System, a nationwide network of banks and retail lending associations chartered to support the borrowing needs of U.S. agriculture, rural infrastructure and rural communities. Headquartered outside Denver, Colorado, CoBank serves customers from regional banking centers across the U.S. and also maintains an international representative office in Singapore.

About Boots and Badges

Boots and Badges is committed to helping the first responders and their families who have experienced a catastrophic event. Our first responders sacrifice to protect our community and some have experienced a great hardship due to their commitment to our health and safety. For more information about Boots and Badges, visit their website at bootsandbadges.org.

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