

ONE PG&E

THE EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER
RETIREE EDITION | 12.2016

SERVING OUR COUNTRY AND OUR CUSTOMERS

San Jose gas employee Pam Pendleton and many other veterans have found careers at PG&E.



FEATURED INSIDE

Celebrating PG&E's Military Veterans

MILITARY VETERANS HAVE SERVED OUR COUNTRY well. They have served PG&E well, too.

The company's support of veterans dates back to World War I. Since the early 1900s, PG&E has worked to hire, train and retrain veterans while helping them pursue rewarding energy careers.

This dedication to veterans has grown over the years with PG&E programs geared to training or hiring military veterans.

PG&E's PowerPathway training program has led to the hiring of hundreds of veterans. In the last three years alone, the company has hired 109 of the 255 veterans that have

graduated from the program and helped hundreds more land jobs with other energy companies.

Last year, PG&E announced an initiative to hire 1,000 veterans over the next eight years. As of September, nearly 350 veterans have been hired and PG&E is on track to reach its hiring goal within five years.

The discipline, skills and dedication veterans bring to the workplace make them outstanding employees.

At PG&E, we celebrate and honor Veterans on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, and every day, for their work in helping build a better California.

Heroes Welcome



Wounded warrior **Mike Newton** comes back strong in gas operations career
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Sky High Safety



For former White House pilot **Ned Biehl** safety is a calling
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Storybook Tale



A lineman's call of duty inspires his wife to write a children's book
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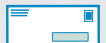
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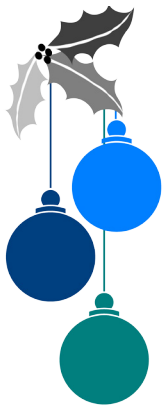
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#PGE4Me
Instagram photos at
[@PacificGasandElectric](https://www.instagram.com/PacificGasandElectric)



Email us at
OnePGE@pge.com



Better Together Season of Giving: Give back this season through PG&E's Community Service Award Program!

If you volunteer and record 25 hours of personal time, which includes board service, with an eligible 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization or an accredited school, PG&E will send a \$350 grant to a nonprofit of your choice. A team of 10 retirees, including family and friends, who collectively volunteer and record at least 30 hours of volunteer time with one organization can qualify for a \$500 grant to be sent on their behalf.

The awards are sent directly to the grantee organization and the name of the PG&E applicant will be printed on the check.

You can apply for a CSA through Community Connect, PG&E's one-stop-shop for volunteering and giving. To access Community Connect, type pge.yourcause.com/yourcause-ss0/login.aspx in your browser.

1. If this is the first time you're using the site, click on Register Now which is located in the top right hand corner.
2. On the next page, read the Terms of Use statement and click the box at the bottom of the page next to "I have read..."
3. This will take you to a page that says "Alternate Registration for Retirees" – enter your last name and your entire personnel number which is located on your pension statement.
4. You will be prompted to create a password; save the password so you can use it going forward.
5. Choose the "Volunteer" tab, "My Volunteering" "Log New Hours"

If you prefer to use a CSA paper application, please send the request via email to volunteer@pge.com

Thank you for your dedication to enhance the communities we serve, and for spreading the holiday cheer!

Retiree Activities

Fresno Chapter

Dec. 1; Social hour 11a.m.
Lunch, noon; \$11 at the door
Pardini's Restaurant
Make a reservation by Nov. 29
Anivea Beshears, 559-476-0359
Joanne Ubbart, 559-275-4099

Yosemite Chapter

Dec. 2, Christmas Luncheon
Winton VFW Post
7093 Walnut Ave # W, Winton
Les or Kathy Nickerson
209-358-4912

Kern District Bakersfield

Dec. 2, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Woolgrower's Restaurant
Del Sands, 661-664-9151
661-343-4345
dsands@bak.rr.com

SF/Peninsula Chapter

Dec. 6, Christmas Luncheon
11:30 a.m. no host cocktails
12:30 p.m. lunch
South San Francisco Elk's Club
920 Stonegate Dr.
South San Francisco

Coast Valleys Chapter

Dec. 7, Holiday Luncheon
Monterey Elks Club
Joanie Lozano
831-663-4608

Reddy Rovers RV Club

Dec. 7, Christmas Dunch
Ristorante La Strada
6240 Napa Vallejo, Highway 29
Cocktails, noon; Dunch, 1 p.m.
Bob and Sue Meek,
707-743-2609
* Bring unwrapped new toy for
Mendocino County Toys for Tots

Russian River Chapter

Dec. 7, Noon, no-host cocktails
1p.m. lunch
Charlie's at the Windsor Golf
Course
1320 19th Hole Dr., Windsor
Jim Ruzicka, 707-584-5981
ziecque@pacbell.net

Los Padres Chapter

Dec. 8, Christmas Lunch
John Schneemann
805-543-3523

DeSabra Christmas Luncheon

Dec. 8, Rolling Hills Casino
Social, noon; Lunch 1 p.m.
\$23/person
Leslie Adams, 530-865-5202

Vaca Valley Chapter

Dec. 9, Holiday Dinner
5:30 p.m. Hosted bar; 6:30 dinner
Winters Community Center
201 Railroad Ave., Winters
Pat Challburg, 707-446-1085
pac3@msn.com

Shasta Chapter

Dec. 9, Christmas Luncheon
Win River Casino, Redding
Begins at 10:30 a.m.
Lunch 11:30 a.m.
Jerry Smith, 530-244-3808
* Please bring unwrapped new
toy for the toy drive

San Jose-DeAnza Chapter

Dec. 13, 4th Quarter Luncheon
11:30 No host cocktails
Noon lunch; \$22/person
Three Flame's Restaurant
1547 Meridian Ave., San Jose
Joyce Winner, 408-265-2698

Sierra-Colgate Chapter

Dec. 13, Luncheon
Jim Edwards, 530-671-0449

Sacramento Chapter

Dec. 14, Luncheon
Rudy's Hideaway
Arlene Cook, 916-988-8905

Drum-Sierra Chapter

Christmas Program
Dec. 14, noon
Lake of the Pines Clubhouse
The "Festival Men's Choir"
will sing holiday favorites
Bill McIntosh, 530-268-8430
Tanglewood97@yahoo.com

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Story ideas?
Email us: OnePGE@pge.com

After a Sniper Ended His Naval Career, Mike Newton Found a Perfect Career Fit: PG&E

BY TERESA JIMENEZ

After returning home from the Navy, Mike Newton wanted work that would make a difference in his community.



PG&E'S MIKE NEWTON spent 12 years in the U.S. Navy, conducting mine sweeps as part of a bomb squad in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, serving on President Reagan's security staff in Japan when the last emperor died and doing a tour of duty at the American Embassy in Russia. He also served aboard the USS Midway, USS Enterprise and the USS Independence.

The overseas tours ended, though, when a sniper shot at Mike while he was sweeping for mines on a beach in Kuwait during Operation Desert Storm. He returned fire and ran, but a bullet hit him in the arm and went through his back, where a piece of shrapnel is still lodged. He returned home, unable to walk for a year. But he later served as a trainer for seven years.

Mike didn't like being away from the action and decided it was time to change careers.

He became a police officer but found it disheartening

to interact with people often having their worst days. He wanted to make a difference, but he didn't find the satisfaction in law enforcement that he got in the Navy.

While volunteering with The Wounded Warriors Project, a fellow veteran suggested PG&E. The more he thought about PG&E, the more it made sense. He applied for a spot in a PowerPathway program for veterans. Of the 2,600 applicants, 27 were accepted. Mike was one.

"After 10 weeks of training, I knew that PG&E is where I wanted to be," he says. "I loved the Navy. I loved the camaraderie and guys working as a team to accomplish a mission. I got that same thing at PG&E."

Mike moved to different positions within the company but has found his calling as one of PG&E's 663 gas service representatives, responding to evening calls along the Central Coast.

"My job is to make sure you're

safe," he says. "I've had people hug me. I've had them tell me, 'Thanks for saving my life.' That makes it all worth it to me at the end of the day."

During one call, he responded to a carbon monoxide alarm. He took a gas reading that measured 200 parts per million — extremely high.

The people were lethargic and weren't making any sense," he says. "I had to get them out and vent the house."

He is often first at the scene when someone smells gas or a construction crew strikes a gas line.

Speaking from experience, Mike says veterans make great PG&E employees.

"We follow procedure," says Mike, who received a Purple Heart for his bravery. "We know there's a reason for procedure. We have all these veterans who've been trained and have these skills. They already have the personality and wherewithal to get the job done."

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

Winter Gas Safety Tips

- Check carbon monoxide detectors to make sure batteries are working
- Make sure your fireplace flue is open
- Never use an oven or stove to heat your home
- Customers can schedule a free gas appliance safety inspection by calling 800-PGE-5000.



In Lafayette, gas service representative Doug Sutter provides a free gas safety inspection.

POWERPATHWAY PROVIDES VETERANS A PG&E CAREER PATH

BY TONY KHING

PG&E IS COMMITTED TO HIRING VETERANS. And the reason is simple: Many military requirements go hand in hand with working at an energy company like PG&E. A large number of PG&E's newest employees who came from the military were recruited through the PowerPathway program, a nationally-recognized program to train new energy workers. Nearly 60 percent of the program's graduates in the past three years are veterans like twin brothers, Raul and Lorenzo Navarro, who served in the Marine Corps.



Raul Navarro

Apprentice gas welder, Modesto

MILITARY SERVICE:

Sergeant, U.S. Marine Corps.
Four years.

POWERPATHWAY:

2013 Sacramento Welding Cohort at American River College



Lorenzo Navarro

Gas service representative, Modesto

MILITARY SERVICE: Sergeant, U.S. Marine Corps.
Eight years.

POWERPATHWAY:

2014 PowerPathway Entry to Electric Operations at American River College

UPON SEPARATION from the Marines, Raul took a job at a Modesto winery. While he was employed, Raul continued to apply for positions at PG&E. Eventually, he was accepted into PowerPathway. His twin brother Lorenzo (younger by seven minutes) took the same career path.

WHY DO YOU LIKE YOUR JOB?

"I enjoy my work. I love what I do. I won't go anywhere else. What I do serves a purpose for the community. I can see everything I do. I want my family to be proud of me working for

PowerPathway provides training for gas and electric operations as well as customer service representatives. Candidates go through a competitive, comprehensive interview process prior to selection.

a good company. This is a good company."

WHY IS PG&E A GOOD PLACE FOR VETERANS?

"The camaraderie is good. What you do isn't the same thing every day. Like in the military, we're serving the community.

"A veteran would love working here. There is more than one opportunity for anyone here."



After spending a combined 12 years in the Marines, the Navarro brothers now serve gas operations.

LORENZO WAS OUT of the Marines for a year when he started pursuing PowerPathway. While waiting to enter the program, he attended Modesto Technical College to improve his skills and worked in the almond fields for his uncle. He participated in PowerPathway in 2014 and joined PG&E two months after graduating. His twin brother Raul also served

in the Marines and now works at PG&E.

WHY DO YOU LIKE YOUR JOB?

"PG&E and the military share similar structure and ethics. Like the military, I'm also able to work in different departments. You're working for a company that's always looking to better itself. PG&E is a company where I can grow as a person in an industry that I enjoy. We're always trying to make things better for our customers and safer for our employees."

WHY IS PG&E A GOOD PLACE FOR VETERANS?

"Coming to PG&E, I felt like I was back home in the Marines. I felt like I was with a company where, regardless of what we do, we're always working together to accomplish that one mission. When I put on the uniform that had the PG&E logo on it for the first time, I got goosebumps."

FORMER WHITE HOUSE PILOT TAKES SAFETY TO THE HIGHEST LEVEL

BY ALMA DE LA MELENA COX

IT'S **NED BIEHL'S** JOB TO ENSURE that anyone who boards a PG&E aircraft is safe. Nothing is more important to him.

"Safety is personal to me," says Ned.

In fact, his remarkable career has revolved around safety — and at the highest level.

From 2004 to 2008, he was the Marine One helicopter pilot for President George W. Bush. After that, he was a lieutenant colonel, commanding a squadron of 600 Marines and 31 aircraft.

"When lives are entrusted to you for safekeeping, safety weighs on you every moment," says Ned, who joined PG&E

in 2014 and is now director of Aviation Services.

Ned's Aviation Services team oversees PG&E's aircraft fleet — a corporate jet, two fixed wing gas patrol planes from Concord, and 35 contracted helicopters that are scheduled and dispatched from Vacaville.

Aviation was Ned's dream as a boy and the Naval Academy became his goal. He earned his wings in 1997. His aviation career in the Marines spanned 21 years. He flew helicopters during three combat tours in Iraq, flying the same aircraft his father, also a Marine, repaired in Vietnam.

Along the way, he and his wife Megan added to their family. They had twin boys, Elliot and Jack; followed by sons



Ned and Megan Biehl with President George W. Bush in the Oval Office.

Tucker and Max. Sadly, Elliot passed away which became the inspiration for the adoption of their daughter, Josie, while Ned was traveling in Rwanda with the White House.

After retiring from the military, he wanted the right cultural fit and to make a difference. He found that at PG&E.

"The military and PG&E share a similar structure of maintenance, operations, safety and service," he says. "The one PG&E philosophy revolves

around teamwork, and that resonates for veterans."

He appreciates how PG&E is solving the future of energy challenges and how the company values differing opinions and thoughts, as well as its diversity. Safety, however, was the biggest draw.

"I love the challenge of how we can do our work safer, better," he says. "Make a personal commitment to safety for yourself and the team around you."

Military Veterans At Home At DCP

BY JOHN LINDSEY



THE CULTURE of safety, the continuous drills and

training, and even the rhythm and smell of Diablo Canyon Power Plant are familiar to many former U.S. Navy

employees who feel at home here after having served their country.

About a third of Diablo Canyon Power Plant's 1,500 employees are military veterans. Most are from the Navy, but they

come from all branches of the military. They have found a special kind of camaraderie at the plant because of their shared backgrounds.

Military experience extends to Diablo's leadership.

Ed Halpin, senior vice president, generation and chief nuclear officer, served in the Navy.

Paula Gerfen, the plant's station director, was in the Air Force.

And **Jim Welsch**, vice president, nuclear generation, also served in the Navy.

Through the years, Diablo Canyon has relied on veterans, with their sense of duty and teamwork experience, to keep the plant performing at the highest levels.

"My training in the Navy Nuclear program and experience

on board nuclear-powered submarines were directly transferable to my job at Diablo Canyon," says **Mike Ney**, supervisor, nuclear unit control at the plant.

Some 275 of the veterans are part of the Diablo Veterans Employee Resource Group.

Julia Huang, Marine veteran and president of the Veterans ERG, says the camaraderie and generosity of the veterans is unparalleled. The group has given more than \$10,000 in charitable donations to local veterans' causes.

"It's an honor to work at DCP, to be amongst so many fellow veterans and veterans' supporters," says Julia, a nuclear scheduler.



Diablo Canyon Veterans ERG president Julia Huang, left, with other ERG members.



BY ARI VANRENEN

Earlier this year, the White House announced goals to accelerate the deployment of electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure to get more EVs on U.S. roads. This includes a vision to create a national EV charging network by 2020.

On Nov. 3, furthering their commitment, the Department of Transportation designated the 48 major traffic corridors that will be part of this national network—covering nearly 25,000 miles across 35 states. This is just the first step to helping consumers become more comfortable with EVs by increasing and ensuring access to charging.

Next, the White House will identify new corridors that need charging infrastructure to support more EVs on the road—and will work with states and organizations to build out the cross-country network.

With its longstanding support for EVs, PG&E was included on the list of companies committed to the White House's initiative.

California has the highest adoption of EVs across the country. More than 100,000 EVs plug into PG&E's energy grid. However, transportation is still the largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in the state—at about 40 percent. Pending approval from the California Public Utilities Commission, PG&E has a plan to change that in Northern and Central California.

Under the plan, PG&E would collaborate with charging station companies to install 7,600 chargers at locations specifically chosen to help spur EV adoption, such as workplaces and multi-unit apartment buildings. As part of the plan, 100 DC fast chargers, which fully charge a Nissan Leaf in less than 30 minutes, would be installed along highway corridors like those identified by the Department of Transportation.

Installing EV chargers isn't easy or cheap, and their profit potential is uncertain. That's the reason so few have been installed under today's purely commercial incentives, despite the obvious demand.

At its core, PG&E is an infrastructure company with the expertise to scale EV charging networks. In partnership with charging companies and supported by the White House, we can jump-start the EV market with critical infrastructure and affordable, clean electricity.

The White House initiative emphasizes the importance of EVs and the charging infrastructure needed to support drivers. This is a key part of the future here in California and across the country.

PG&E has a plan to collaborate with charging station companies to install 7,600 chargers at locations specifically chosen to help spur EV adoption.



Retirements

Doyle Alcorn 35 years of service	Michael Goin 44 years of service	Ann Malman 42 years of service	Teddy Silver 43 years of service
Andre Apodaca 33 years of service	Gary Griffin 45 years of service	Robert Marotti 40 years of service	Cortez Smith 43 years of service
Gholam Asghari 34 years of service	Rosa Guevara 36 years of service	Hilly Meyer-Zebzda 34 years of service	Karen Stathis 39 years of service
Eric Breniman 29 years of service	James Hagopian 37 years of service	Evangeline Miclat 40 years of service	Linda Terrell 42 years of service
Charles Cato 43 years of service	Lynn Helms 38 years of service	Katheren Picon Liao 36 years of service	Philip Thompson 32 years of service
Michael Chan 38 years of service	William Hinegardner 39 years of service	David Poliquin 39 years of service	Eugene Williams 45 years of service
Deborah Churchill 38 years of service	William Johnson 36 years of service	Mary Post 35 years of service	Vance Wilson 26 years of service
Cecil Clevenger 36 years of service	Henry Jung 43 years of service	Steve Redding 42 years of service	Lawrence Wise 37 years of service
Diane Cortese 38 years of service	Daniel Kaufman 35 years of service	Bradley Renfro 31 years of service	Jack Wong 43 years of service
Lance Farrier 43 years of service	Bryn Kawaakoa 43 years of service	Robert Riofrio 44 years of service	James Younce 15 years of service

Retiree Contacts

PG&E Outage Hotline
800-743-5002

PG&E Customer Service
800-743-5000

PG&E Pension Payroll
415-973-3767

Pacific Service Employees Association
800-272-7732

PG&E Retirement Award Customer Service
800-385-3139

HR and Benefits questions:

800-700-0057
HRBenefitsQuestions@exchange.pge.com

Mail:
1850 Gateway Blvd., 7th floor
Concord, CA 94520

Web: <https://myportal.pge.com>

Tributes

Wanda Adams 10/8/2016; Ret. 3/1/1987 Customer Service SJVR Stockton	David S. Eardley Jr. 10/15/2016; Ret. 10/1/2009 Steam Generation	Raymond Grundhofer 10/10/2016; Ret. 4/1/1987 Nuclear Power Generation Humboldt	Edward Lathrop 10/22/2016; Ret. 3/1/1986 Marketing; Golden Gate	Wesley W. Sanders 10/17/2016; Ret. 8/1/1981 Electric, North Bay
Richard Ahern 10/12/2016; Ret. 9/1/1998 Vice President and CFO	Helen Ha-Lin Eng 10/23/2016; Ret. 6/1/2014 LSP&D, DeAnza	Steven Hajdu 10/11/2016; Ret. 12/1/1998 Steam Generation Electric; Steam Generation	Robert Lind 10/18/2016; Ret. 11/1/1993 Service Bay Region	Janet Marie Schneider 9/29/16; Active Diablo Canyon Power Plant
Richard Beck 10/14/2016; Ret. 8/1/2008 Maintenance & Construction Area 4, Electric	Mack L. Enz 10/21/2016; Ret. 2/1/2002 Operations, Maintenance & Construction, Electric	Stanley Hanusiak 10/10/2016; Ret. 4/1/1987 Civil Engineering General Office	Duane Mayberry 9/20/2016; Ret. 2/1/1991 Electric Construction San Jose	John Sorensen 10/11/2016; Ret. 2/1/2005 Operations, Maintenance & Construction, Electric Area 5, Yosemite
John William Black 9/18/2016; Ret. 1/1/1995 Moss Landing Power Plant Steam Generation	Alfred Rego Fausone 10/5/2016; Ret. 1/1/1995 Electric Meter Shop Fresno	Idamarie Heiner 9/5/2016; Ret. 9/1/1991 ACDS San Joaquin/Kern	Carol Minto 9/30/2016; Ret. 3/1/1991 Customer Services Redwood Region; North Bay	Lupe Hernandez Sosa 9/17/2016; Ret. 10/1/1993 Customer Service San Jose Division
Leland Borgen 10/3/2016; Ret. 7/1/1981 Marketing Sacramento	Steven Fernandes 10/8/2016; Ret. 4/1/2015 Maintenance & Construction Electric	Milton Lee Higginson 10/11/2016; Ret. 10/1/1993 Gas & Electric Services East Bay Division	Richard Moody 10/7/2016; Ret. 5/1/1992 Electric Construction Sierra Division	Huey Sykes 9/2/2016; Ret. 7/1/1987 Electric General Office
Edwin Cunningham 9/22/2016; Ret. 1/1/1995 Steam Generation Operations	Bobbie Salladay Fernandez 9/28/2016; Ret. 8/1/2001 General Office	Virgil Hollingsworth 10/8/2016; Ret. 7/1/1999 Operations Maintenance & Construction, Gas	Royce Eldridge Parker 9/12/2016; Ret. 1/1/2007 IT Infrastructure	Ronald D. Taylor 10/2/2016; Ret. 10/1/2006 Field & Metering Services
Gary D. Daugherty 10/11/2016; Ret. 5/1/2001 Pittsburg Power Plant Steam Generation	Robert Figone 9/8/2016; Ret. 10/1/1981 Marin District North Bay	Robert Hough 10/10/2016; Ret. 12/1/1981 Customer Service; Stockton	Mildred Pepitone 9/30/2016; Ret. 10/1/2010 Call Center Operations & Credit Collections	Albert C. Van Cleave 10/7/2016; Ret. 5/1/1990 General Services - MTL Redwood
Ralph Doney 10/1/2016; Ret. 2/1/1981 Line General Construction	Dale Fluckey 10/14/2016; Ret. 2/1/1979 General Office	Ronald Hudson Jermstad Jr. 10/4/2016; Active IT-OC Front Office	Vernon Peterson 10/11/2016; Ret. 5/1/1984 Pipeline Operations Antioch	James Walker 9/22/2016; Ret. 11/1/1993 Electric Transmission & Distribution Stockton Division
Scott Drimmel 10/4/2016; Ret. 5/1/1986 Conservation San Joaquin Valley Region	Maureen Fries 8/24/2016; Ret. 10/1/2006 SVP & Chief Utility Counsel	Larry Johnson 9/21/2016; Ret. 7/1/2000 Customer Records San Joaquin	Mary L. Pope 10/1/2016; Ret. 4/1/1985 Customer Service Golden Gate Region	Robert Wallace 7/31/2016; Ret. 7/1/1990 North Bay
	Melanie Lynn Gager 10/8/2016; Active Workforce Health	Emmett Lackey 9/30/2016; Ret. 3/1/1983 Electric T & D; San Joaquin	James Rupe 9/9/2016; Ret. 10/1/2012 PLO	Robert Warren 9/14/16 Hydro Central Area

Lineman's Wife Writes Children's Book to Share Dad's Important Work

BY DAVID KLIGMAN



LAST CHRISTMAS Eve, PG&E lineman

Jeremy Murdough arrived home after three days working on an electric reliability project in remote Humboldt County.

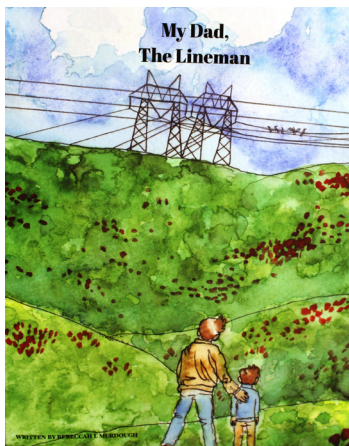
Waiting for him was his wife, Rebecca, five months pregnant. The Eureka-based transmission lineman wasn't back more than three hours when he got a call to return to repair a switch that had failed.

Rebecca broke down. Her new husband wouldn't be home for Christmas.

"No, you can't go! This is not fair," she recalls saying between sobs.

He explained, "Babe, some little kid can't open his presents on Christmas morning because he doesn't have power."

Restoring power for the company's millions of customers often requires that linemen and other workers



Rebecca has sold 123 copies of her children's book in just a few months.

are gone for days at a time or longer. Christmases, Thanksgivings, birthdays and other milestones are sometimes missed.

That's why she decided to write and self-publish a children's book called "My Dad, The Lineman" (available at www.blurb.com). She sold 42 books the first day and has received many notes of thanks from PG&E employee spouses.

One page shows a lineman ready to go to work:

Last night the power went out and daddy's phone lit up. He handed me a flashlight and headed for the truck. With a smile and a kiss, daddy said, "goodbye." He said, "Don't worry, I'll be back in just the blink of an eye."

Rebecca understood, as the spouses of many PG&E gas and electric employees do. Her brother is a lineman in Texas and her grandfather, **Coy Goodson**, spent his career working for PG&E.

Linemen have to be ready to do their jobs at a moment's notice, whether there's a winter storm or a wildfire. Of course, the upside — and there are many — is a secure, necessary job with good pay, overtime and working outdoors with a team.

For many linemen families, adaptability is required. Rebecca learned that after her surprise engagement in 2014 on stage at the PG&E Lineman's Rodeo in Livermore. She recalls Jeremy was so



Rebecca Murdough (with husband, Jeremy, and daughter Charli) wrote a book for the children of linemen who sometimes work irregular hours.

nervous that now-retired senior director **John Parks**, who was in on the surprise, had to remind him what to do as they stood before a large crowd of employees and their families.

"He had been telling people all day long and then he forgot to get on his knee," Rebecca recalls. "John Parks told him, 'Get down on your knee. What are you doing?'"



Jeremy proposes to Rebecca in August 2014 at the PG&E Lineman's Rodeo in Livermore.

About that time, Rebecca began to imagine starting a family. She looked for books on how to help families manage lives in households where the spouse's job schedule is unpredictable. She couldn't find

any, so she decided to write her own book.

She persuaded her friend, a tattoo artist, to illustrate the 24-page book. Her cover shows a boy and his father looking up at a transmission tower. She spent months editing and re-editing to make it just right. Jeremy insisted safety be a focus, including teaching children to stay away from downed power lines.

"Having a lineman as a husband or a dad is just something people don't understand," she says. "They're gone a lot. This is a way for kids to feel that they're not alone and that other kids miss their dads."

This year, they plan to celebrate the holidays around Jeremy's schedule, knowing it may not happen exactly as they'd like. Whether it's on Dec. 25 or thereabouts, they will most definitely celebrate daughter Charli's first Christmas.

Jeremy says it's not easy to be away from his family for big moments. But he understands why.

"A lot of kids don't get to see their dads this time of year," he says. "They're out there so other families have electricity."