



Duane "Rudy" Holien's extensive marksmanship career has landed him as an inductee into the North Dakota Hall of Fame in January 2023.

Duane Holien: American veteran, distinguished marksman

BY BRITTNEE WILSON

Competitiveness runs in the Holien blood. For Duane "Rudy" Holien, it started at age 9, shooting gophers in competition with his five brothers and two sisters.

The Holien siblings spent most of their childhood at the shooting range, practicing their marksmanship in their hometown of Cando. Their father, Harold Holien, co-founded the Dakota Rifle & Pistol Club in 1953 and taught hunters' safety to hundreds of children in the 1960s and 1970s, including his own kids.

Like their father, the Holien siblings entered as many shooting competitions as they could. Rudy won his first state championship in 1963 at age 10, for small-

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Sgt. Rudy Holien served overseas during Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm. This photo was taken shortly after the war ended.

bore, or .22-caliber, rifle. At age 11, he placed fifth in the nation at the National Rifle Association sub-junior competition level. He continued competing in junior rifle competitions until he enlisted in the U.S. Army at age 19 in 1972.

"I barely passed the hearing test to enlist," Rudy said. Years of shooting without proper ear protection had taken a toll on his hearing.

In the Army, Rudy was trained as military police, before entering confinement school to learn how to operate all positions in a prison. His first orders sent him to a new pre-trial prison in Germany, which averaged 200 prisoners. While in Germany, Rudy entered a pistol competition, and to his surprise, he won. To this day, that is the only pistol competition Rudy has ever entered.

In 1974, Rudy was discharged and returned home from Germany. Rudy settled into home life, working as a skilled carpenter, marrying and starting coaching juniors in the small-bore and high-power rifle disciplines.

A few years later, Rudy joined the Cando Army National Guard unit and the N.D. Guard rifle team. At a National Guard national championship in Little Rock, Ark., Rudy won the excellence-in-competition match and was selected to the United States 20-member National Guard team, a group of the best National Guard shooters in the United States.

Between 1984 and 1989, this elite team competed all over the United States. Continuing to excel in competitions, Rudy was awarded the Distinguished Excellence in Rifle Marksmanship Badge (No. 518) in 1984 as a civilian. The Distinguished Rifleman and



The Holien marksmen are victorious at the Perry on the Prairie competition in 2015. **Rudy** is on the left, with his son, **Ryan**.

Distinguished Pistol Shot badges are the highest honors most military and civilian rifle and pistol shooters can aspire to earn. A few years later, Rudy was also recognized by the Army and presented with the U.S. Army Distinguished Rifleman's badge after winning the National Guard's Small-bore Rifle Championship in Nashville, Tenn.

Adding to Rudy's achievements, he was honored with the Chief's 50 Gold Marksmanship Badge to be worn on the Army dress uniform, which is a prestigious honor only given to the top 50 shooters to recognize outstanding marksmanship abilities as demonstrated at the National Guard championships. The badge was presented to Rudy by the chief of the bureau of the National Guard in 1986.

None of this could have been achieved without his support system back home.

"I can thank my hardworking and understanding wife, Jackie, and my co-workers, Dad and Dan Lipp, for allowing me to do this," Rudy said.

In the fall of 1990, with three little ones at home, Rudy was activated to Saudi Arabia for Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm with the Cando National Guard unit. He worked in water distribution and supply, was a senior mechanic and a weapons instructor for all weapons, including grenades, rifles, pistols and light anti-tank weapons. He safely returned home and back to normal life in the summer of 1991.

Normal life for the Northern Plains Electric Cooperative member included spending time with his family. He and Jackie welcomed a fourth child, he continued to work as a carpenter, was active with the Cando National Guard, served on the city council,

president of the Dakota Rifle & Pistol Club, chief of the fire department, on the parish council, a member of the American Legion and entered shooting competitions on the weekends.

As a civilian, Rudy continued to add his name to trophies across the prairie. Rudy declared one of his most memorable tournaments was the first ever 1,000-yard Long-Range State Championship for North Dakota in 2007. The state championship consisted of four 20-shot matches that made up the 800-point aggregate. Rudy scored a 796-43x out of 800-80x, clinching the win. During that match, he also set a state record for the 1,000-yard iron sight match.

Now, at the age of 70, Rudy still brings his “A” game to every match. For the past couple years, one of his top competitors has been his son, Ryan Holien.

“He is pushing me hard nowadays,” Rudy laughed. “But it’s fun having my son shooting with me for several years now. It makes these tournaments more enjoyable.”

Ryan, who lives in South Dakota and works for an electric cooperative, is often traveling to North Dakota to shoot with his dad. The two Holiens have been known to alternate their names on the championship trophies.

“I am grateful that I am able to enjoy this great sport with my dad,” Ryan said. “Competing alongside of him is something that I have looked forward to doing for as long as I can remember.”

Just like his father and grandfather before him, Ryan has also been honored with the Distinguished Excellence in Rifle Marksmanship badge.

“Rifle competition has been a Holien family tradition for almost a century and to carry that on means a lot,” Ryan said.

Rudy has spent a lifetime competing – 60 years! He has entered over 180 competitions, with his name engraved on all the major championship trophies in many of the rifle disciplines. He has earned the right to put his name on the John Aiken North Dakota high-power across the course



Rudy Holien, at age 69, set a record for the first time in North Dakota to achieve 10x clean at 300 yards rapid fire in 2021.

championship trophy an astonishing 18 times. He holds five state records, including the high-power 200-yard standing, 600-yard iron sights, the high-power rifle national match course, and the 300- and 600-yard any sight records.

In September, Rudy was notified the N.D. Shooting Sports Association will induct him into the North Dakota Hall of Fame for marksmanship early next year.

“It’s pretty cool, to be in there with Dad,” Rudy said. Harold is one of the few North Dakotans to be inducted into the North Dakota Hall of Fame twice, once for hockey and the other for marksmanship.

After looking back on all his awards and honors, Rudy said his greatest accomplishment is his 22 years of service to his country through the U.S. Army. ■

VETERANS DAY

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Heat control exercise planned for dual heat and storage heat members

Northern Plains Electric Cooperative is announcing a scheduled load control exercise week for those members with dual heat and off-peak storage heat systems. During the week of Nov. 28 through Dec. 2, we plan to exercise load control on all available off-peak heating systems. The control exercise(s) will consist of control periods between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. on one or more days. We plan for no longer than three hours of load control on any day during this test. No exact test dates have been set for that week, as it will depend on the prevailing weather at that time.

The purpose of the control exercises will be twofold. First, it provides valuable off-peak loading data for the cooperative, so we know how much heating load can be controlled. Although we do not plan on controlling off-peak electric heat during the rest of the winter, it may be necessary due to a power generation or transmission line constraint, when we may be called upon to reduce our system loading. If an emergency control such as this is called for by our power supplier, we would activate load control of off-peak heating systems without advance notice.

Secondly, it provides the opportunity for you, our dual heat and off-peak storage heat members, to operate your backup heat system to ensure it operates properly and provides adequate backup heat during control periods. This control will alert you as to whether

or not your backup system will function adequately during an off-peak control period. If you experience problems with your backup system during the control exercise, or if you already know your backup heating system needs servicing, please contact your heating or electrical contractor to schedule the work needed. The information below may help you determine the options available to you if you are trying to decide what to do about a non-functioning backup heating system.

If you need our assistance before, during or after the control exercise or want to be removed from the off-peak heat rate and switched over to our non-controlled electric heat rate, please call 701-968-3314, 701-652-3156 or 800-882-2500 to visit with one of our employees.

Pointers to prepare for load control exercise on off-peak heating systems:

- Ensure you have an adequate supply of fuel oil, propane or natural gas for your backup heating system.
- Make sure your floor heat and/or brick storage heaters are preheated for several days so an adequate supply of stored heat is available during the control periods.
- Set the thermostats for your backup heating systems, so they operate in a comfortable temperature range.

We thank you for your cooperation during the control exercise of off-peak heating systems. ■



Anita Barrett, president of the Towner County Historical Society, accepts a donation.



NPEC General Manager **Seth Syverson**, left, presents a check to **Kraig Subart** of the Robinson Fire Department.



Accepting the donation on behalf of the Leeds Park District is vice president and co-director of the park, **Dustin Paulson**.

Grants awarded in Northern Plains' service area

Northern Plains Electric Cooperative is a member of the Rural Development Finance Corporation (RDFC). As a result, communities in our service area were eligible to apply for a grant of up to \$2,000 for community-based projects. RDFC is making these funds available so more people become aware of its large loan program that funds community-based projects and nonprofit entities with low-interest loans.

RDFC has recently granted \$666 to the Towner County Historical Society in Egeland. The museums for the Towner County Historical Society consist of a depot, jail, Presbyterian church, three buildings uptown and

the previous Egeland school. The grant funds will be used to put steel around the museum depot building in Egeland.

A grant of \$667 went to the Robinson Fire Department. The fire hall serves as a gathering location for the community in time of need and grant funds will be used to purchase a generator for emergency backup during loss of power at the fire hall.

The Leeds Park District was awarded \$667 to help with the replacement of the playground equipment at the Leeds City Park. The growing community of Leeds is looking forward to having safe, updated playground equipment for children of all ages to enjoy. ■

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Highly effective portable heater safety habits

1 Keep all sides of the heater at least 3 feet from beds, clothes, curtains, papers, sofas and other items that can catch fire.

2 Never run the heater's cord under rugs or carpeting and never power the heater with an extension cord or power strip.

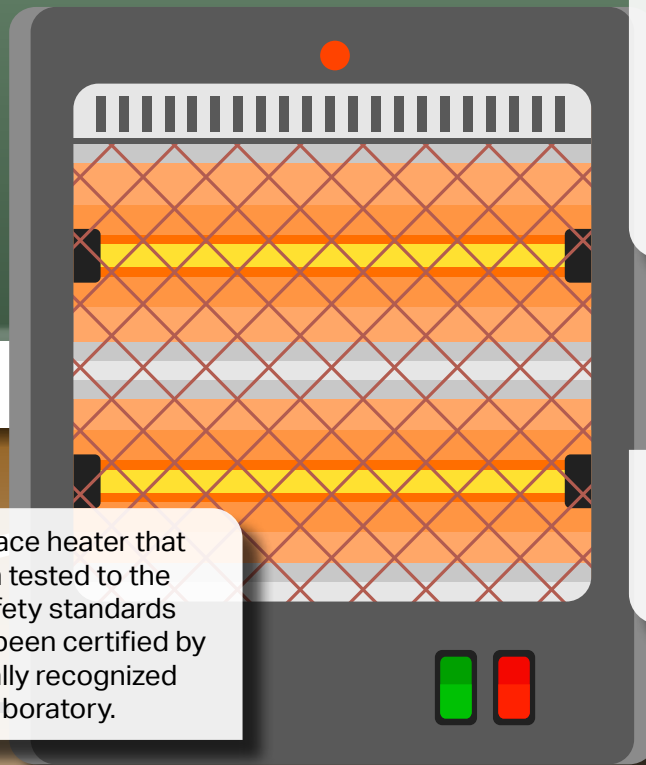
3 Make sure the heater is not near water. NEVER touch it if you are wet.

4 Place the heater on a stable, level surface, located where it will not be knocked over.

5 Never leave the heater operating while unattended or while you are sleeping.

6 If the heater's cord or plug is HOT, disconnect the heater and contact an authorized repair person. If any part of the outlet is hot, contact a certified electrician.

7 Use a space heater that has been tested to the latest safety standards and has been certified by a nationally recognized testing laboratory.





Operation Round Up approves charitable grants

At its September meeting, the Northern Plains Electric Operation Round Up board of directors approved grants totaling \$9,700 to help support worthy causes.

These charitable grants are made possible through the generosity of Northern Plains Electric Cooperative members who voluntarily elect to have their electric bills rounded up to the next dollar.

Since the program's beginning in October 1998, grants totaling \$890,537 have been awarded to 1244 local charitable causes.

Grants approved in September include:

- Gary Lacey, Cando, medical expenses
- Leeds Community Building Inc., new tables/chairs project
- Pingree T-ball, construction cost of new baseball field

- Father's Farm, Wolford, construction costs of new facility
- Leeds Community Food Pantry, Hungry Free Food Pantry of New Rockford, Carrington Daily Bread, The Bread of Life Food Pantry of Cooperstown, Kidder County Food Pantry, Pierce County Food Pantry, Mt. Pleasant School of Rolla, Community Action of Jamestown, Cando Area Food Pantry, Wells County, The Hope Center of Devils Lake, food pantry/backpack programs

If you would like additional information about this worthy program, please contact Northern Plains Electric Cooperative by calling 800-882-2500 or obtain guidelines or download applications at www.nplains.com. The board will meet again in December to review applications. The application deadline is Nov. 20. ■

Attention snowbirds!

Sign up for SmartHub before heading south

Calling all snowbirds! Before you migrate south for the winter, sign up for SmartHub and leave the worries about your electric bill in North Dakota!

No matter where you choose to spend your winter, you can always manage your Northern Plains Electric Cooperative account from anywhere you can access the internet. You can use SmartHub to manage your payments, update your contact information, notify customer service of account issues, check your usage and receive special messages from Northern Plains Electric.

To sign up for SmartHub, visit www.nplains.com and click on the SmartHub link to register at the top of our homepage. Or you can download the SmartHub app from the app store to access SmartHub from your iPhone or Android phone.

SmartHub is FREE to members. Need help signing up? Call our office at 800-882-2500 for assistance. ■



Program offers heating assistance

Are you or someone you know having difficulty paying home heating bills? If so, a federal program could help. The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps eligible low-income households with home energy assistance.

Eligible households are encouraged to apply for assistance for:

Heating assistance

LIHEAP can pay for a portion of fuel or electricity used to heat your home between Oct. 1 and May 31. The amount of benefit depends on your income, the type and size of your home, and the type of fuel used to heat your home.

Weatherization service

The weatherization program helps low-income families make their homes and apartments energy efficient. Weatherization seals a home to keep warm air in and cold air out during the winter.

Furnace and chimney cleaning

The program can pay (up to a certain amount of monies dependent on the service) to clean and inspect your furnace and/or chimney.

Emergency assistance

LIHEAP funds are available when there is a home

energy emergency that may threaten the life of your family.

Energy cost-reduction devices

Funds are sometimes available to help with installation costs of energy-reducing devices to qualify for lower electric heat rates.

Applications are accepted from Oct. 1 to May 31 of each heating season. For LIHEAP services, call your local human service zone center or contact the Energy Assistance Program, N.D. Department of Human Services, at 800-755-2716. ■



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