

Leadership Matters: LDR Leadership Relaunches as Summit Point Leadership for Electric Utilities

Four U.S. Army veterans acquire LDR Leadership, relaunching as Summit Point Leadership to develop frontline leaders for rural cooperatives.

HOUSTON, TX, UNITED STATES, August 24, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- [Summit Point Leadership](#) has launched following a management buyout of leadership-development firm LDR Leadership by four U.S. Army veterans united by a single belief: leadership matters. The veteran-owned firm, founded in 1991, specializes in [frontline leader development](#) for rural electric cooperatives — a sector where a looming retirement wave and rising wholesale power costs are placing unprecedented weight on frontline leaders.



Dave & Knox at the summit of Mt Blue Sky - 14,266 ft

Summit Point Leadership traces its roots to 1991, when the firm was founded as ICON by U.S.

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Dave Taylor

Army veteran Jack Yeager, the son of an electric utility lineman. Over the following three decades it grew into LDR Leadership, built and scaled from 2018 to 2025 under U.S. Army Rangers Dave Taylor, and Vern Tubbs. On Veterans Day 2025, Taylor, Tubbs, and two other Army veterans — Dan Maxwell and Jim Freeze — completed a management buyout and relaunched the company as Summit Point Leadership. The name reflects a principle the founders return to often: no one reaches the summit alone — the company they now lead was built by many hands across three decades.

Buying the company was a genuine risk — a veteran-led group taking on real personal exposure to acquire and relaunch a business rather than sell into an easier path. Asked why he took it on instead of coasting toward retirement, Taylor pointed to conviction over comfort.

“At 53, I probably could've coasted into retirement,” said Dave Taylor, CEO. “I never expected to own a business. But I believe in what we do and the impact leader development has on people. At the end of the day, this work is about people.”

“Some of the biggest decisions of my life have been made out on the trail — including Mount Shasta in 2016, where I decided to leave the military after 24 years,” Taylor said. “People think the goal of climbing is the summit. It's not — it's the halfway point. The descent carries as much if not more risk, because that's when you get complacent. Leadership works the same way. Getting promoted, buying a company, becoming CEO — none of it means you've made it. If anything, the work is just getting started. As long as you're leading, you have a responsibility to keep learning and developing the future leaders in your charge.”

“Nobody Summits Alone,” Taylor's forthcoming book on life and leadership draws on his years of experience in the military and the mountains.

Summit Point Leadership's focus on rural electric cooperatives reflects a specific and growing need. For a typical distribution cooperative, wholesale power is the single largest expense — often two-thirds of the bill — is a pass-through cost outside of the co-op's control. Meanwhile, the cost of electricity has climbed sharply: U.S. residential electricity prices rose roughly 31% between 2020 and 2025, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, driven by fuel costs, grid investment, and data center electricity demand.

With its largest cost outside its control, a cooperative competes on the one thing it does control: execution — and frontline leadership is the biggest lever to drive execution. Gallup's Q12 meta-analysis, the [world's largest study](#) of employee engagement, links the most engaged teams to markedly better operational results, including 63% fewer safety incidents and 51% lower turnover than the least engaged. For a not-for-profit cooperative, those results flow into operating costs and, ultimately, member utility bills.

That challenge coincides with an unprecedented generational leadership transition. According to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, 6.5% of cooperative employees are eligible to retire today, a figure projected to reach 16.6% — roughly one in six — within five years. The next generation of cooperative leaders will inherit bigger, more complex challenges than the generation before them.

For the veterans who now lead Summit Point Leadership, the work is personal. The founders come from rural communities — including Chief Operations Officer Vern Tubbs, who was raised on a dairy farm in western Pennsylvania — and see stronger local leadership as a path to building stronger communities. It is the belief that carries the company's name into its next

chapter: leadership matters — and nobody summits alone.

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