



DCUC

ALERT

ISSUE 5

DCUC.ORG

MAY 2023

CEO UPDATE

**DCUC
Sub-Councils
Continue to Grow**

CAPITAL CORNER

**The Political
Playing Field
in Washington**

DCUC NEWS

**NCUA Credit Union
Capital Markets
Symposium**

DCUC CONFERENCE

**Join Us for Our 60th
Annual Conference
in Colorado
August 7-11!**





ALERT

DCUC is the premier resource for credit unions on all military and veteran matters.

DCUC Latest Accomplishments

- DCUC, CUNA and NAFCU sent a **joint trades letter** to The Honorable Jack Reed, Chairman, Senate Committee on Armed Services, The Honorable Roger Wicker, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Armed Services, The Honorable Mike Rogers, Chairman, House Committee on Armed Services, and The Honorable Adam Smith, Ranking Member, House Committee on Armed Services.
- DCUC and its joint trade partners emphasized the importance the House and Senate again reject any attempts by for-profit banks to insert provisions into the 2024 NDAA
- DCUC successfully held its [2023 Overseas Sub-Council Conference](#), co-hosted by Keesler Federal, in Vienna, Austria from May 1-5! See CEO Update on page 4.
- **Received six Hall of Honor nominations** – Now awaiting HoH Task Force to select the 2023 inductees.
- Engaged with **ongoing VBBP participation efforts to sign new members**

DCUC Happening Now

- **ALERT newsletter is now fully digital!** [Get your monthly copy today!](#)
- DCUC released its **Spanish-version** of popular Guide to the [Military's Blended Retirement System](#). Get your free digital copy now!

DCUC Upcoming Activities

- **DCUC's 60th Annual Conference** is quickly approaching! [Register now](#) to join DCUC August 7-11 at the beautiful Broadmoor Resort and Spa in Colorado Springs, CO;



Dating back to 1970, DCUC sub-councils have remained a core part of DCUC's mission in championing the interest of our Nation's credit unions serving our military and veteran communities."

– Anthony Hernandez, DCUC President/CEO

SERVING THOSE WHO SERVE OUR COUNTRY

DEFENSE CREDIT UNION COUNCIL, INC.

*Championing the interests of credit unions
serving our military and veteran communities*

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DCUC Sub-Councils Continue to Grow



*Anthony Hernandez,
President and CEO, DCUC*



While all defense credit unions share the same dedication to serving our Nation's military and veterans, regional challenges are real. Gathering in these smaller focus groups has allowed for better communication, better service, and ultimately a better experience for our credit unions' military members."

*– Anthony Hernandez,
DCUC President/CEO*

Dating back to 1970, DCUC sub-councils have remained a core part of DCUC's mission in championing the interest of our Nation's credit unions serving our military and veteran communities. Over the last year, DCUC has continued to improve the overall quality and value of our three sub-councils. Apart from increased attendance, better speakers, and more time for substantive discussions, I find the level of commitment, camaraderie, and healthy "coop-petition" stemming from these sub-council conferences and events to be the best in the industry. In fact, these regional gatherings often drive many of the interactions between credit union leaders at subsequent events like our upcoming 60th Annual Conference.

We recently concluded our 2023 Overseas Sub-Council Conference in Vienna, Austria. It was a huge success, and we are very thankful for our overseas member credit unions. Each of these credit unions serves an important role for military members and their families overseas, offering a slice of home through access to the United States financial system with quality products and services on foreign soil.

Our Overseas Sub-Council Conference opened with an expert strategic overview of the current U.S. overseas military posture. The discussions noted significant influential factors and challenges presented by recent events such as the continued push into Eastern Europe affecting the financial needs of those stationed in former Eastern bloc countries. The ongoing war in Ukraine and the effect on future NATO forces and permanent infrastructure also continue to shape strategic decisions. Taiwan and the

Middle East were part of these discussions as well.

Several of the many unique issues we discussed included the DoD's Overseas Military Banking Program and why Bank of America is no longer willing to support the program, the "one-bank/one credit union" policy (32 CFR Part 230), questions on whether a credit union could legally operate a banking charter, and how cash/U.S. currency would be supplied under a new arrangement. Other notable considerations mentioned included floating conversion rates, segregating domestic and overseas accounts, and regulatory compliance with an antiquated DoD contract.

During the conference, speakers and credit union leaders shared insights regarding ongoing base access issues, recent moves by host nations to impose taxes on U.S. citizens, lengthy hiring timelines, and a renewed push to collect fees from credit unions in violation of 12 USC section 1770.

Regardless of the challenges discussed, there were still great news stories shared by our overseas member credit unions about serving our military families overseas. This continues to be one of the most rewarding aspects of witnessing America's credit unions making a real difference in the daily lives of our Nation's military. Thousands of miles from our national borders, these financial institutions are the epitome of serving those who serve our country, and I left truly inspired by these credit unions' purpose and dedication.

That said, I see the same dedication when facing regional challenges in our other two sub-councils. Hawaii is a culturally

continued on page 6

CEO UPDATE *continued from page 5*

rich state and features many military installations that share a similar unique role within their communities. There are many service members and families in Hawaii who are also a long way from home and in need of sound financial advice, products, and services. The thousands of veterans throughout the state are another area where our Hawaiian member credit unions serve with distinction. The Hawaii Sub-Council's growth underscores the importance of its mission and commitment to providing the best service.

Finally, our Midwest Sub-Council remains an important part of what it means to be a defense credit union. Many of our members throughout the Midwest serve on installations that are far from population

centers (aka "flyover" country). Just like our Overseas and Hawaii sub-councils, Midwest member credit unions fulfill an important role in serving the military and their families who are also far from home.

Yet, just like the Overseas and Hawaiian Sub-Councils, there are unique challenges associated with the Midwest region, particularly for first-term service members, newlywed couples, and young families. There are also plenty of good news stories, improved service ideas, and experiences that are shared during our Midwest Sub-Council Conference. Defense credit unions located in the Midwest have always been a mainstay of support for our association. I am very proud of all our Sub-Councils!

Finally, we have our 60th Annual Conference in less than 90 days. I am excited to bring each of our member credit unions

together to renew our mutual commitment, build and/or renew our camaraderie while exploring ways to improve our "cooperation" in serving our nation's defenders and veterans. I hope to see you there!

Most importantly, I want to thank each one of our member credit unions for your support and for ***Serving Those Who Serve Our Country!*** ■



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CONFERENCE

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Donate an item
to the Silent
Auction



Bid on the great
Silent Auction
items



Buy raffle tickets
for the 50/50
Drawing

Supporting the



Since 2003, together, we have raised almost
\$400,000 for military-related charities!

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The Political Playing Field in Washington



It's amazing what a series of bank failures will do to the political playing field in Washington. Here's what DCUC is following:



Provided by John McKechnie

Congressional action on the 2024 NDAA is getting started in May, and DCUC is once again on patrol regarding another banker attempt to gain free leases on military bases. As a preemptive strike, DCUC was joined by NAFCU and CUNA in a letter reminding lawmakers of strong credit union opposition to any bank efforts to change the successful status quo.

Expect a long slog on this bill. Even though the House Armed Services Committee is going to hold 7 Subcommittee mark-ups and a full Committee vote on May 23, the Senate Armed Services Committee Chair

Jack Reed (D-RI) has postponed Senate action until later in the summer. Most Hill observers don't expect NDAA to be finalized until year-end, possibly as late as December.

Congress has not come up with a bill to address the upheavals in the banking sector, but FDIC floated a suggestion on raising the deposit insurance limit for payroll accounts that could get traction on the Hill.

Will NCUA follow suit? It may not be as simple as saying "We want similar treatment."

Preliminary conversations with congressional staffers suggest that asking for parallel treatment could be tricky—one



House aide said “It’s almost certain that the banks will make hay over you asking. Congress doesn’t think of credit unions in terms of having business customers, so you’re going to have to do some education on that. And when you do, ABA and ICBA will beat you over the head with a hammer and say you’re just like banks.”

Response to the staffer (that seemed to work): “Consumers deserve transparency and identical treatment, no matter what financial institution they choose. This is all about consumer benefit, and no one should be penalized for using a credit union.”

Rumblings out of NCUA in recent weeks suggest that worrisome financial trends stemming from the banking crisis are beginning to affect credit union balance sheets.

Specifically, senior NCUA sources point to weak and declining liquidity in the

larger US financial system that is now beginning to impact credit union ability to access both liquidity and capital markets. Signs of a pending recession are already showing up in two key areas: credit quality (noticeably declining credit scores) and household debt. Again, credit union lending has been affected by this in Q1, and NCUA examiners anecdotally are seeing a bigger effect now.

Add in the reality that credit unions are being exposed to interest rate risk in a way that is new to many CU executives (and most NCUA staff), and there is a potential for a rough year ahead.

Another DCUC priority, legal cannabis banking, is making a comeback. On April 26 a bi-partisan House bill was introduced to ensure that legal marijuana businesses have access to credit unions and other financial service providers. Bill language also preserves

the right of a financial institution to refuse to serve those businesses if they so choose.

Reason for optimism: the legislation has passed the House seven times; no reason to think it won’t get through that chamber again. Reason for pessimism: the Senate can’t find a path forward to consider SAFE without attaching full pot legalization, something that guarantees failure. Senate Banking Committee held a May 11 hearing on cannabis banking, so maybe there is momentum building. Be skeptical until there is reason to not be skeptical. ■

NCUA Credit Union Capital Markets Symposium

Provided by DCUC

DCUC's President/CEO Anthony Hernandez attended the first-ever NCUA Credit Union Capital Markets Symposium at the New York Stock Exchange in New York City on April 11, 2023.

Hosted by NCUA Board Member the Honorable Rodney Hood, the event featured several keynote speakers and panelists from the credit union and financial services industries. Each of these contributors shared insights and updates on industry topics including managing liquidity and interest rate risks, accessing capital markets for securing assets, and handling debt and secondary capital strategically.

"I was very impressed with the NCUA's Capital Markets Symposium. The discussions were excellent, and the information was very timely, especially the careful balance between liquidity vs. yield," said Anthony Hernandez, DCUC president/CEO. "The attendees included many credit union industry leaders from across the country—Credit Union CEOs, League Presidents, and several System Partners who help make our industry thrive."



The Honorable Rodney Hood, NCUA Board Member and host of the Credit Union Capital Markets Symposium, and Anthony Hernandez, DCUC president/CEO

GUIDE TO THE MILITARY'S BLENDED RETIREMENT SYSTEM SPANISH VERSION

FREE digital download for all member credit unions

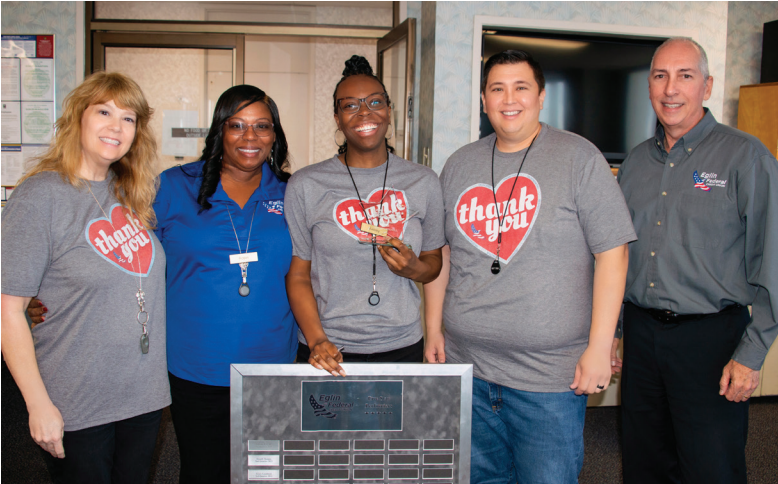
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NOW AVAILABLE

AWARDS & RECOGNITION



Kelsey Mitchell Receives Eglin FCU's 5-Star Employee Award for the 1st Quarter

Eglin FCU is pleased to announce HR Training and Development Coordinator **Kelsey Mitchell** has been selected as the 5-Star Performer for the first quarter of 2023. Kelsey has been employed with the credit union since July 2012 and currently resides in Fort Walton Beach. ■

AmeriCU Received 2022 Perspective Program Award of Excellence

AmeriCU Credit Union Investment Team received the 2022 Perspective Program Award of Excellence by CUNA Mutual Group.

"Achieving this honor demonstrates the commitment and dedication of our team," said Cara White, AVP, Insurance and Wealth Services. "Our number one priority is always our members' financial well-being. Our team works hard to get our members to plan and pursue their financial goals." ■



SAFE FCU Wins National Awards for Financial Education

SAFE FCU was recognized recently as an industry leader in financial education by CUNA. SAFE FCU received multiple awards at CUNA's Marketing and Membership Development Council Conference including the event's most prestigious, Best of Show Award for its "SAFE Cents" financial education video series.

Designed to help members improve their financial well-being, the "SAFE Cents" series delivers practical information on a variety of topics like credit scores and debt management in a fun, engaging video format. The initiative is part of the credit union's ongoing commitment to financial education and has garnered nearly 1.1 million views on YouTube since its launch in August 2022. ■

CREDIT UNION PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK—Tinker FCU (TFCU) announced that Board Member **Bill Watkins** retired April 1 at the Annual Shareholders' Meeting after 36 years of service to the credit union.

"Bill is the ultimate professional, well versed in the credit union way, and he has been a supporter of TFCU and our members his entire tenure. Bill's time on our Board of Directors is a testament to his commitment. He will be missed, and we wish him all the best. As CEO, I am blessed to have served with Bill," said Dave Willis, TFCU president/CEO.

Members of TFCU elected two new board member incumbents, **Eldon Overstreet** and **James Pearl**, at the credit union's recent annual shareholders' meeting.

TFCU recently named **Kate Bacon** as the development director for TFCU's philanthropic entity, the TFCU Foundation. Bacon will oversee development and fundraising efforts for the foundation.

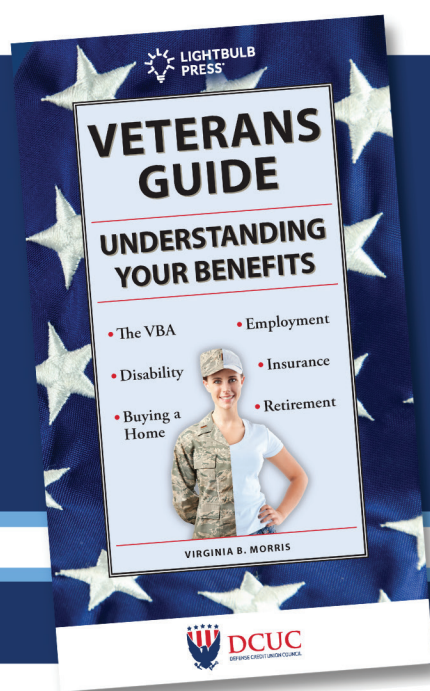
LITTLETON, MA — Hanscom FCU announces the appointment of **Christopher J. Santillo** as its Senior VP of Relationship Banking. Santillo will be responsible for defining and delivering a competitive product set, a compelling member experience, and new processes to identify and cultivate relationships with Hanscom FCU's most engaged members.

CREDIT UNIONS IN THE NEWS

MUNCIE, IN — Ball State Financial, a division of **Financial Center First CU**, is excited to announce the successful merger with Muncie Post Office CU (MPOCU), effective April 1, 2023.

FAYETTEVILLE, NC — On July 1, 2023, **Fort Bragg FCU** will officially become **Fort Liberty FCU**. "The "Fort Liberty" name will allow us to continue to recognize and honor our history while communicating our continued financial strength and stability in the communities we serve," said Todd Kenthack, Fort Bragg FCU president/CEO.

GLENDALE, AZ — **Credit Union West** is excited to announce their further expansion into metro Phoenix with the opening of their new Papago branch near the Arcadia area. This is a relocation of the credit union's Osborn branch, currently located on the HonorHealth hospital campus in Scottsdale. Credit Union West will host a Grand Opening and ribbon-cutting event with community leaders in June to celebrate the new location.



DCUC'S NEWEST PUBLICATION

VETTED BY THE
VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

Coming
Soon!

Make-A-Wish® MID-ATLANTIC

Together, we create life-changing
wishes for children with critical illnesses.



Mary-Brigid McCauley (left) and Rochelle Hazzard (right), ambassadors from the TowerCares Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Tower FCU, present a special \$10,000 donation to Lesli Creedon, president/CEO of Make-A-Wish® Mid-Atlantic. Photo provided by Tower FCU.

Tower FCU Celebrates 70 Years with a \$70,000 Donation to Local Charities through the TowerCares Foundation

Provided by Tower FCU

Founded in 1953, Tower FCU recently celebrated its 70th anniversary with a special \$70,000 donation to charities through the TowerCares Foundation, the credit union's philanthropic arm. Seven TowerCares grantees each received \$10,000 in donations.

"The TowerCares mission is to help children in need as well as brave individuals and their families who have sacrificed while defending our country," said Rick Stafford, Tower's president/CEO and president of the TowerCares Foundation. "In honor of Tower's 70-year legacy of supporting the defense community, we wanted to make a special donation to local charities who align with the TowerCares mission."

What made the donation even more special, Stafford said, is that Tower employees voted for and selected the charities to receive the \$10,000 donations. "Tower employees have been ardent supporters of the TowerCares Foundation from the start," he said. "They are the heart and soul of Tower. It only seemed fitting that we let them have the opportunity to select the charities for this special donation as part of our new brand launch."

"We are so grateful for the continuously increasing support from Tower and TowerCares over the past four years," said Lesli Creedon, president/CEO of Make-A-Wish® Mid-Atlantic, one of the seven charities to receive the special \$10,000 donation. "The TowerCares Foundation and the entire Tower team understands the life-changing impact of a wish for a child with a critical illness. A wish can be the spark that helps these children believe that anything is possible and gives them strength to fight harder against their illnesses. Tower's generous gift will give hope and joy to both children of military families and kids throughout D.C., Maryland, and Northern Virginia."

The following seven local charities received a \$10,000 donation from TowerCares: Boys & Girls Club of Annapolis & Anne Arundel County, Casey Cares, Comfort Cases, Gigi's Playhouse, Hero Dogs, Make-A-Wish® Mid-Atlantic, and the Maryland Center for Veteran Education & Training (MCVET).

Keesler Federal Provides Supplies to Foster Children in Need

Provided by Keesler FCU

Keesler FCU has a long history of giving back to the communities it serves and recently initiated a new program to help children in need.

The credit union donated rolling duffle bags filled with supplies to 2,876 foster children in three states. The children are under the care of CASA, or Court Appointed Special Advocates.

Keesler Federal volunteers worked over three days packing each duffle bag with a blanket, dental kit, nightlight with USB ports, and a notebook and pen.

Samantha Bignell, Community Development Officer at Keesler Federal, said the goal was to make the children's moves into foster care homes easier and less stressful.

"Sometimes when they move, they don't have their own travel bag. They have to put their items in a trash bag," said Bignell. "So, it's important to us to help these children feel like they are important like they have an identity."

The rolling duffle bags and supplies were distributed throughout various markets, including the Mississippi Gulf Coast, Mobile, AL., Hattiesburg, and Jackson, MS.

"They can put their name on the bag and take it with them wherever they go," said Bignell. "The blanket is theirs; it has only been used by them. Those are things that make these children feel like they matter. We chose rolling bags so even the little ones can walk with their items by themselves and be independent. We enjoy giving back to our communities, and it's even more special if you can do something to help a child."



VyStar Military Heroes Mortgage Program Supports the National POW/MIA Memorial & Museum

Provided by VyStar CU

VyStar CU marked the progress of The National POW/MIA Memorial & Museum in the Cecil Commerce Center on Wednesday, April 26, with a \$28,600 donation and preview tour of the facility. The funds will help the organization continue its important work toward completing construction and upgrades of the museum honoring our nation's brave Prisoners of War and Missing in Action heroes.

The VyStar Military Heroes Mortgage Program was created to honor those who protect, serve, and care for our country and communities. The program, launched in 2021, supports heroes through a wide variety of benefits, payment and closing options, and assistance from a specially created VyHero Mortgage Support Team. With each loan closed in 2022, VyStar donated \$100 on behalf of the member. As a result, VyStar proudly presented its first donation to continue the development of the memorial and museum.

"We hope this becomes a sacred place where visitors stop to pay their respects as they pass through the area, where families and friends come to commemorate anniversaries meaningful to them and where the community, whether directly impacted or not, will be grateful that this facility exists so that the memories of these brave men and women will live on," said VyStar president/CEO Brian Wolfburg.

To celebrate the continued progress of the memorial, VyStar Military Heroes Mortgage Program members and invited guests gathered for an exclusive viewing of the unique memorial and museum. The event provided an opportunity for attendees to learn more about the plans to pay tribute to the over 140,000 service members being recognized. Two recently added fighter jets, an F/A-18 Hornet and A-7 Corsair II were also highlighted during the tour, representing years of military pilot training, marking an essential chapter in First Coast aviation history.

How has DCUC helped further your credit union's ability to serve our Nation's military and veterans? Share your story in our ALERT! Email Haleigh Lavery at hlavery@dcuc.org.

PenFed CU Donates \$50,000 to Honor Flight Network

A Historic Flight from San Juan to Washington, D.C.

Provided by PenFed CU

Two dozen Puerto Rican veterans arrived at San Juan Airport to thunderous applause, live music, and an enthusiastic crowd waving American and Puerto Rican flags. The vets returned from the first Honor Flight in history from the island to Washington, D.C. where they visited the monuments and memorials built in their honor. PenFed CU partnered with the Honor Flight Network to make this unprecedented, all-expense paid trip a reality.

“PenFed loves Puerto Rico. PenFed loves veterans. Sponsoring this Honor Flight for Puerto Rican veterans was not only the trip of a lifetime for them, but it was also a beautiful way to express our gratitude and appreciation for their service and sacrifice,” said PenFed CU President/CEO and PenFed Foundation CEO, James Schenck. “It was an honor to be in San Juan at the airport to welcome them home.”

The Honor Flight trip included veterans who served in WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. One veteran, 101-year-old Angel Acevedo Bernal served in all three conflicts.

“When I heard about PenFed sponsoring this trip, it didn’t surprise me. What they say is what they do. PenFed made our dreams come true,” said Jose Irizarry, a Vietnam veteran who served in the 82nd Airborne Division. “I saw a Korean War veteran crying because he felt that everything he went through was erased today. We really appreciate this. A lot.”

The distinguished veterans visited several iconic locations in our nation’s capital, including the WWII, Korean, and Vietnam War Memorials, as well as Arlington National Cemetery.

“PenFed’s generosity helped make this flight possible. The Honor Flight Network was proud to partner with the credit union to make this inspiring and emotional journey a reality for Puerto Rican veterans,” said Honor Flight Network CEO, Meredith Rosenbeck. “Honor Flight trips provide veterans with an empowering sense of camaraderie and in many cases, closure.”

Andrews FCU Extends Utility Relief Program by Offering Grants to Military Families

Provided by Andrews FCU

Andrews FCU recently announced an addition to its Overseas Utility Relief Assistance program. The credit union announced it will provide grants for overseas servicemembers and military families who need additional support because of unprecedented utility costs associated with the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Credit union members who have applied for an Overseas Utility Relief Assistance loan may be able to qualify for a one-time grant to help with their utility expenses. Members can receive up to \$2,500 toward their utility costs if they do not qualify for a loan or if they need additional funds.

Andrews Federal originally launched its Overseas Utility Relief Assistance Loan in response to a request from garrison leadership to help families struggling with unprecedented utility expenses. Energy costs have increased drastically because of the war in Ukraine and the average family will pay about €6,000 (approximately \$6,600 in American dollars) for energy this year.

“With the Overseas Utility Relief Assistance loan program, our goal was to ease the burden on our military families,” said Damita Robinson, Chief Operating Officer for Andrews FCU. “By extending the program to offer grants, we are able to support members who would otherwise be severely impacted by this unprecedented expense. Our military members know they can turn to Andrews Federal for help and support when they need it most.”

DEFENSE CREDIT UNION COUNCIL, INC.

Navy Federal CU Honors Servicemembers and Their Families for Military Appreciation Month

Provided by Navy Federal CU

Navy Federal is launching special offers and celebratory activities throughout the month of May to honor servicemembers and their families for Military Appreciation Month.

“Creating opportunities to make a positive impact on the lives of military members and their families has been at the heart of what we do for 90 years now,” said Carrie Foran Sepulveda, VP of membership at Navy Federal. “We’re excited to be partnering with Operation Gratitude again this year to further extend our efforts towards making an even greater impact on servicemembers and their families.”

Navy Federal CU is donating \$50,000 to Operation Gratitude as a proud partner in their mission to provide hands-on volunteer opportunities in the military community. Over the last 20 years, Operation Gratitude has sent over 3.8 million care packages with items meant to boost morale and resilience of active-duty servicemembers around the world.



DCUC

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PenFed Renews Commitment to 'uRise,' a Local Resource for Learning Community and Care with \$125,000 Donation

Provided by PenFed CU

PenFed CU furthered its partnership with Rise, a nonprofit providing services in the Hightstown/East Windsor area, with a \$125,000 donation in support of uRise Powered by PenFed. uRise is an online hub for local creators to share their passions and skills to uplift others as they connect with community, manage well-being and mindfulness, and acquire new skills and knowledge.

"PenFed was founded on the credit union mission of 'people helping people' and Rise shares in our mission. Together we are providing meaningful support to uplift our communities," said PenFed president/CEO and PenFed Foundation CEO James Schenck.

"I am thrilled to announce that uRise powered by PenFed has received a generous donation to support our mission of providing accessible education and resources to underserved communities," said Executive Director of Rise Leslie Koppel. "Increased funding by PenFed will help uRise expand and improve its offerings, both online and in-person."



AmeriCU Announces Jimmie Allen, Maddie & Tae for Salute to the Troops Tribute Concert at Mountainfest

Provided by AmeriCU

Country music artist Jimmie Allen is set to headline AmeriCU's 11th Salute to the Troops Tribute Concert at Fort Drum's Mountainfest, along with special guests Maddie & Tae.

The concert will be held on Wednesday, June 21, 2023 at Fort Drum. AmeriCU is proud to present this event to honor and give thanks to the U.S. Army 10th Mountain Division soldiers, their families, and community, for their valiant service and sacrifice to our country. More than 15,000 people attend the concert each year, which remains free and open to the public.

"Every day, America's military members selflessly put their lives on the line to keep us safe and free. We are proud to celebrate our military, as well as our strong connection to the Fort Drum community," said Ron Belle, AmeriCU President and CEO. "We are looking forward to a great concert with talented artists."

The Salute to the Troops Tribute Concert is held in cooperation with co-sponsors: Five Star Sponsors: Martin's Point Health Care and Waite Toyota; Four Star Sponsors: Fort Drum Mountain Community Homes, Carthage Area Hospital, Kinney Drugs; and Media Sponsors: Wahl Media and Community Broadcasters. This concert would not be possible without the dedicated volunteers and generous support from all sponsors.

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Service CU Extends USO Partnership to Support U.S. Operations

Provided by Service CU

Service CU, a longtime partner of the USO, has expanded its reach to support the USO's mission in the United States as well as abroad. Service CU is dedicated to supporting the military community by helping the USO be "the force behind the forces" and is excited to kick off its stateside support as a sponsor of the 2023 USO Boston Marathon team.

After many years of working alongside the USO on community events on U.S. military bases in Germany, where Service CU has 14 branches, in September 2021, Service CU became an official Mission Partner of USO Europe, Middle East, and Africa (EMEA). That means Service CU's support is immediately deployed where it is needed most. The partnership also includes support of the USO's monthly Coffee Connection events, a space where military spouses can share their stories, experiences, and resources to include financial education topics, as well as regularly scheduled sponsored events such as Sun and Fun, Thanks for Thanksgiving program, Trees for Troops, single service member holiday dinners, newcomers' orientation, a mentorship program, and welcome center events. This partnership allows these events and initiatives to be free of cost to the military community. Now, with its expanded sponsorship, Service CU will also sponsor events and initiatives that support military communities in the U.S.

"Continuing to expand our partnership with the USO has been fruitful for all," said Jaime Yates, Community Relations Manager at Service CU. "Being a mission partner further spreads the word about the credit union difference, and how important it is for us to support and connect with our nation's heroes, not only financially, but out in the community as well."

Service CU is sponsoring Team USO at the 2023 Boston Marathon, which includes U.S. Navy Senior Chief Robert Bruce, U.S. Army veteran and Bronze Star recipient Krysta Cass, USO volunteer Allison Hayes, and lifelong runner and native New Englander Paige Khosla.



Service CU group; photo provided by Service CU

On the Friday before the Boston Marathon, Service CU will also lend its support to the USO by participating in a USO Care Pack and Welcome Reception at the USS Constitution Museum in Charlestown, MA. Service CU volunteers will join members of Team USO and other Team USO sponsors in building care packages for deployed service members.

"In our time working with the USO in the EMEA area, volunteers from our overseas branches have packed over 30,000 care packages for service members, helping give them a connection to home. We're excited to give our staff in the U.S. the same opportunity to expand our support and get involved in this wonderful partnership," added Yates.



Above: USS Constitution; photo provided by Service CU



USO; photo provided by Service CU



Scott CU Celebrates 80-Year Anniversary with 80 Acts of Kindness

Provided by Scott CU

Scott CU (SCU) started in 1943 as a financial institution for civilian employees at Scott Field (now Scott Air Force Base). Though the name has changed over time, SCU's commitment to members and the local community has not. To celebrate 80 years of service, SCU will support their employees as they embark upon 80 Acts of Kindness.

"We are proud of our 80 years of commitment to our members, our community, and our employees," said Frank Padak, president/CEO of Scott CU. "Over the years we have donated

millions of dollars and thousands of volunteer hours to organizations in the places where we live and work. It is a big part of who we are and what we do as a not-for-profit financial institution. To celebrate this milestone, we are amping up our efforts."

SCU employees, including each of the 25 branches, will perform a minimum of 80 Acts of Kindness in 2023. The ideas generated by branch and back-office employees include planting trees in municipal parks, donating supplies to and visiting animal shelters, paying off school lunch debt at local schools, delivering treats to hospital staff, collecting donations for a diaper bank, and many more. These Acts of Kindness will be executed between March and October of this year.

"We're grateful to have been a part of many communities over the past 80 years. Giving back in big and small ways is what we do," said Padak. "Our employees are ambassadors for Scott CU and this program allows them to devote their time and energy to the organizations of their choosing. We're excited to see our core values in action."



Eglin FCU Partners with the Okaloosa Public Schools Foundation to Bring a "Reality Check" Financial Education Program to Students

Provided by Eglin FCU

The Okaloosa Public Schools Foundation and Eglin FCU teamed up to bring a financial education experience called Reality Check to Okaloosa County for the first time. Approximately 60 high school students from the 9th to 12th grades participated in lessons facilitated by EFCU Financial Education Specialist Courtney Dollson at Laurel Hill School on April 12 and 19 with the final Reality Check simulation at the Crestview Community Center on April 26. The Okaloosa Public Schools Foundation provided breakfast and lunch through a grant for the students the day of the simulation.

"In the classroom, Laurel Hill students learned about budgeting, expenses after graduation, and credit in preparation for the Reality Check simulation," said EFCU Financial Education Specialist Courtney Dollson. "Eglin Federal Credit Union is committed to the communities we serve by providing free financial education. We hope to continue this event annually and see even more growth in the coming years."

At the Reality Check simulation students randomly received various occupations, salaries, and credit scores. They toured booths staffed by community partners and volunteers to make purchases from insurance agencies, mortgage lending, auto lending, finance, retail, communications, and more. Several products and services were offered such as a home, car, or insurance translating into various monthly payments with credit scores considered. Students budgeted their expenses and calculated their remaining income at the end of the activity.



At the event, a student, Amy Senterfitt, said, "What I learned today is that parents really do have it rough around here. It really opened up my eyes because I didn't realize how much stuff actually costs even though it might be low in price, it adds up at the end. Today I really learned how to budget my money and how the real world is actually going to be. Courtney visited our school and got us ready for this event a couple of weeks ago. She really helped us prepare for what the future is going to be like, but I didn't realize how hard it was actually going to be."

"Financial literacy and fiscal responsibility are life skills," said Executive Director Okaloosa Public Schools Foundation Steve Horton. "The Okaloosa Public Schools Foundation is grateful to be able to partner with Eglin Federal Credit Union and our other volunteers to host this event for our students. We are committed to enhancing students' education, and this Reality Check event provides a perfect forum to do just that."

You can view the Reality Check video here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s_HSx_nBNPA

Call for Resolutions

If you have a resolution that you would like DCUC to adopt, here's your chance. Submit a written resolution to DCUC prior to May 30, 2023, to be acted on by the Resolutions Committee and included with the Call for the Annual Meeting, which is issued 60 days before the DCUC Annual Meeting. Proposed resolutions should be emailed to Beth Merlo, Vice President, DCUC at bmerlo@dcuc.org. If you have questions, please call 202-734-5007.

Credit Union West Celebrates New Prescott Valley Branch with Grand Opening Event and Charity Donation

Provided by Credit Union West

Credit Union West celebrated their newly built branch in Prescott Valley, Arizona with a Grand Opening and ribbon-cutting event earlier this month. The event brought together members of the community including the Prescott Valley Chamber of Commerce, Prescott Valley Town Council, and local non-profit organizations.

To kick off the Grand Opening event, the credit union invited ROTC students from Prescott's Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University to perform a presentation of the colors.

As part of the celebration, Credit Union West was proud to present a donation check for \$6,331.52 to Firefighter Angel



Foundation, a local nonprofit that provides assistance to families in Yavapai County. The donation was the first of four in the credit union's 2023 EmployeesCARE Program. The program is fully funded by Credit Union West employees and awards funds to four recipients chosen by staff each year. Firefighter Angel Foundation was chosen for their charitable work in providing school supplies, holiday gifts, and other necessities for children in need throughout Yavapai County.

PenFed Foundation Partners with Wear Blue: Run to Remember to Honor Children of Fallen Military Heroes

Provided by PenFed CU

The PenFed Foundation, a national 501(c)3 founded by PenFed CU, is partnering with wear blue: run to remember, a nonprofit organization dedicated to honoring fallen service members through purposeful steps every week in community runs. The PenFed Foundation provided a \$30,000 grant to support wear blue's Gold Star Youth Mentorship Program and widely recognized "wear blue Mile" that honors fallen service members by displaying their photos and ribbons for one mile in large marathons across the country including the upcoming St. Jude's Rock 'n' Roll Nashville.

"Military children make a tremendous sacrifice that often goes unrecognized," said James Schenck, CEO of the PenFed Foundation. "We are inspired by their resilience and want every military child to know that we see and support them, especially those who are enduring the immense and tragic loss of a parent."

After losing her husband in Afghanistan, co-founder Lisa Hallett turned to running to cope with her loss. Lisa found a community of other wives and families searching for support and wear blue: run to remember was born. In the years since, Lisa has built the group into the global organization it is today as an outlet for loved ones to honor those they have lost and as a way for every American to convey tangible gratitude to our service members.

"When our children lose a loved one, there is so much in their worlds they cannot control. But, in the steps of a run, they are able to regain agency in a piece of their lives," said Lisa Hallett, Co-Founder of wear blue: run to remember. "When an organization with the compassion and muscle like the PenFed Foundation partners with wear blue, we're able to scale our impact to empower our families of the fallen; support our service members, veterans, and their families; and ensure that our fallen heroes are never forgotten."



On race days, volunteers line a mile of the course holding American flags with names of fallen service members embroidered onto attached ribbons.