

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Gulf Winds Credit Union

For more information, contact:

Lauren Clark, Public Relations Specialist

Office: 850-479-9601, x149 | Email: Lauren.Clark@gogulfwinds.com



Gulf Winds Remembers Longtime Board Member Fred Houston

Pensacola, Florida (June 2, 2023) — Gulf Winds Credit Union remembers Fred Houston, board member for more than 50 years, who passed away on May 26, 2023.

Fred was born a few blocks from the Gulf Winds Garden Street Branch in 1934. After a peaceful small-town childhood, he joined the Air Force where he served in the medical corps aiding wounded soldiers. Following his military service, Fred returned to Pensacola and attended Pensacola Junior College. He then embarked on a successful career working at the Chemstrand Nylon Plant and Monsanto, dedicating 35 years to the companies. Additionally, he served in the Army National Guard for over 20 years and received an honorable discharge in 1994. Fred's commitment to service extended beyond his professional life though, as he volunteered at the Escambia County Sheriff's Department and worked as a security guard at Gayfers department store.

One of Fred's greatest passions was his involvement with the now Gulf Winds Credit Union. A natural leader, Fred was encouraged by coworkers to run for the employee credit union's Supervisory Committee and became the chair. Fred then spent the rest of his life volunteering on that very board. During his 58 years of service, Fred acted in the roles of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Treasurer. He was named Board Emeritus in October 2022 and continued to offer guidance to the board based on his experience and expertise.

"Fred dedicated an incredible 58 years of his life as a passionate volunteer for our credit union, leaving a profound mark on our organization, community, and the lives of our members," said President and CEO, Daniel Souers. "We will remember Fred for his kindness, friendship, genuine care, and stories of the past."

In addition to dedicating his time to Gulf Winds, Fred was also a staunch advocate for the credit union movement in other capacities as he served on the Executive Board of the Escambia Chapter of Credit Unions, the Florida President's Association, the Escambia County Credit Union's League Chapter Board and the Supervisory Committee of Central Credit Union. He was also recognized as Volunteer of the Year by the Florida League of Credit Unions. He will be dearly missed.

About Gulf Winds:

Since 1954, Gulf Winds Credit Union has offered products and services that *Move Members Forward*. Gulf Winds provides 81,000+ members with the convenience of 13 branch locations, digital banking, nationwide surcharge-free ATMs and the support of more than 200 knowledgeable employees committed to providing excellent service. Membership is open to anyone that lives, works, worships or attends school in North Florida, Southern Alabama and Southern Georgia. Visit GoGulfWinds.com for more information.

###