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Alaska USA Celebrates 60th Anniversary

Anchorage, Alaska – On December 6, Alaska USA marks its 60th anniversary of service to members. In celebration of its 60th anniversary, Alaska USA has captured the history of the credit union through the eyes of several long-time members. One member discusses how a business loan through Alaska USA allowed him to earn additional money to put food on the table, while another talks of being a life-long member. To read these full stories and for a collection of member testimonials, visit www.alaskausa.org/60years.

Alaska USA was founded in 1948 as the Alaskan Air Depot Federal Credit Union on Fort Richardson, Alaska to serve the financial needs of Department of Defense personnel. Those new to Alaska had a need for consumer credit, and local banking institutions were not meeting their needs. The founding members of Alaska USA recognized that a credit union, as a not-for-profit cooperative, could satisfy those credit needs and provide other financial benefits. Alaska USA's origins are best told by its very first member, Edna "Smitty" Bruntzel, recorded during Alaska USA's 40th anniversary.

"After World War II, many of us who came to Alaska to work at the Alaska Air Depot on Fort Richardson didn't have enough money to get settled. And the government didn't pay employees until they'd been on the job for two weeks. It wasn't easy for us, especially during the winters.

So, 15 of us decided that if we formed a credit union, we could make loans to newcomers until they received their first paycheck. Then they'd be able to repay their loans. It would also give us old timers a fair return on our savings. All in all, I'd say it was an idea that worked out pretty well!"

Over the past six decades, Alaska USA has responded to members' ever-changing needs with a growing portfolio of financial services, always holding firm to its strategy of providing members with exceptional service, real value, and the utmost convenience while holding true to the credit union tradition of cooperative ownership and people helping people.

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More about Alaska USA

Alaska USA is the largest financial institution headquartered in Alaska and the number one consumer lender in the state. It's the largest mortgage lender in Alaska and the third largest auto lender in the Pacific Northwest. The credit union also operates the largest independent insurance brokerage in Alaska and the largest trust company headquartered in Alaska.

In 2008, Alaska USA was voted for the second year in a row as Alaska's favorite financial institution and is recognized as one of the top 10 best places to work in Alaska. The credit union has nearly \$4 billion in assets, \$2.7 billion in loans, and services \$3 billion in mortgage loans. Alaska USA has 52 branches in 28 communities throughout Alaska and Washington and serves nearly 350,000 members in all 50 states and around the world.

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