

May 2017

SELFRIDGE FLYER

127th Wing - Your Hometown Air Force



AWARDS

Civilian employees recognized for outstanding service to 127th Air Wing

A select group of civilian employees were recognized by the 127th Wing command team during the annual Civilian Awards ceremony here on May 4.

Four individuals and two teams received awards as part of the Air Force Civilian Awards Program. The ceremony coincided with May's drill weekend, a training period twice the length of typical duty weekend and nicknamed, "Super Drill."

The wing's top civilian employees of the year are:
 Jeanie Holland, Mission Support Group, Title 5 Manager of the Year

Larry Glasgow, Maintenance Group, Title 5 Supervisor of the Year

James Snyder, Mission Support Group, Title 5 Employee of the Year

SERVICE » PAGE 3



U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTOS
 BY MSGT. DAVID KUJAWA

Brig. Gen. John D. Slocum, 127th Wing Commander, addresses a group of 127th Wing civilian employees during the Civilian Federal (Title 5) and State Employee Ceremony at Selfridge Air National Guard Base on May 4, 2017. The annual event acknowledges the outstanding performers and highlights their achievements for the year.

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Service

FROM PAGE 2

Michael Tremblay, Mission Support Group, State employee of the Year

127th Precision Measurement Equipment Laboratory Calibration Team, Title 5 Team of the Year

127th Mission Support Group Roads and Grounds Crew of the Civil Engineering Operations and Engineering Flights earned the Commander's Trophy

"This is a wonderful opportunity just to be able to get everybody together," said Brig. Gen. John D. Slocum, commanding officer of the 127th Wing, of the long weekend. "We wanted to leverage this opportunity to recognize our outstanding civilian employees."

Slocum presented trophies to the winners while Chief Master Sgt. Tony L.

Whitehead, command chief of the 127th Wing, emceed the ceremony.

Selfridge employs approximately 3,000 full-time civilian and military personnel in addition to approximately 3,000 members of the Air and Army National Guards and other reserve components of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Those recognized during the ceremony are employed by the State of Michigan or the federal government. The latter are referred to as, "Title 5" as their employment is governed by Title 5 of the U.S. Code. Many of the civilian employees are military retirees able to continue their service at Selfridge.

"From a longevity standpoint, one of the great things about our civilian employees is their continuity," Slocum said. "It makes us much better, it makes us much more efficient as an organization."

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SELFRIDGE FLYER

The Selfridge Flyer is a monthly publication highlighting the citizen Airmen of Selfridge Air National Guard Base. It is produced, printed and distributed in partnership with Digital First Media.

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Vice Commander: Col. David Brooks

Command Chief Master Sergeant: CMSgt. Tony Whitehead

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On the cover: Flanked between Brig. Gen. John D. Slocum, commander of the 127th Wing and Chief Master Sgt. Tony Whitehead, 127th Command Chief, stand the Civilian Federal (Title 5) and State Employee award winners for 2016 at Selfridge Air National Guard Base on May. 4. Pictured are, from left, State Employee of the Year, Michael Tremblay of the 127th Mission Support Group; Title 5 Employee of the Year, Master Sgt. James Snyder of the 127th Mission Support Group; Manager of the Year, accepted by Douglas Patton of the 127th Logistics Readiness Squadron for Jeanie Holland of the 127th Logistics Readiness Squadron; Supervisor of the Year, Larry Glasgow of the 127th Maintenance Group; Commander's Trophy accepted by Christopher Sanderson of the 127th Civil Engineering, on behalf of the 127th Mission Support Group Roads and Grounds Crew of the Civil Engineering Operations; Team of the year accepted by William Haley of the 127th Precision Measurement Equipment Laboratory Calibration Team.

U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY TERRY ATWELL

COAST GUARD

Beyond the Mission: Air Station is always prepared

By **LTJG Zach Speck**

*U.S. Coast Guard
Air Station Detroit*

What comes to mind when you think of Coast Guard Aviation? Pilots flying through gale force winds, flight mechanics lowering a basket to the deck of a listing boat, a rescue swimmer slicing through ten foot waves to save a family? Every Coast Guard aircrew has the same hope of being a hero; the reality is helicopter crews spend most their time beyond the primary mission of search and rescue. They are constantly performing duties to keep the Air Station ready to at any moment. This is a quick glimpse at day to day Air Station operations.

Air Station Detroit is a busy place, we fly 3,000 flight hours every year with just five aircraft. These aircrews and helicopters patrol 1,100 miles of coast-line to protect and respond to more than 300 search and rescue cases each year.

The first stop is the swimmer's shop where the rescue swimmers maintain all the gear necessary to save a life. Aviation Survival Technicians ensure pyrotechnics are ready to bring light to the deepest night. They make sure the aircraft has first aid equipment ready to help those in need.

"Our rescue equipment has to be inspected, tested, and ready for use in every condition from the frigid, icy water of the Great Lakes to the salty, warm water of the Caribbean," said AST 3rd Class Nate Feske. "Everything has to be in top shape and ready to deploy any second to anywhere in the U.S. and surrounding waters."

They also manage all the flight gear of every Air Station crew member to include helmets, dry-suits, and flight suits. If it keeps

the crews alive during a crash, they've maintained it. Besides these various duties, they also maintain top physical condition and ensure their bodies are ready for anything from a 200 foot vertical West Coast cliff rescue to a deployment in the middle of a hurricane.

The Coast Guard has been flying the French built H-65 Dolphin for 32 years, collecting about 1.5 million hours on 100 different helicopter airframes. The Coast Guard had plans to retire the helicopter at 20 years but has since continued its sustainment initiative into the foreseeable future.

"Our service has the world's finest aviation technicians," LT Robby Chavez, Air Station pilot notes, "They are unique in the fact that they perform all aircraft maintenance and serve as crew after the maintenance is complete. They have a vested interest in ensuring every screw is in its place and the fuel system is perfectly calibrated to the last drop."

In order to prosecute a rescue in the middle of Lake Erie, the rotor blades have to be precisely tracked to within 1.5 inches of each other, the flight control components have to be inspected, and the rescue hoist has to be able to lift 600 pounds. It's the knowledge, and keen eyes of the Aviation Maintenance Technician that will notice the slightest imperfection that could lead to disaster. They are the expert maintainers of every mechanical component from the tip-cap of the rotor blade to the hydraulic system that extends the landing gear.

Aviation Electrical Technicians maintain and troubleshoot automatic flight control, navigation, and collision avoidance systems. "I have done drug and migrant interdiction cases in the

middle of the Atlantic ocean where GPS and aircraft navigation equipment was our only hope of finding our way back to the ship before we ran out of fuel, but it's the last worry on my mind because I know my brethren AETs have the highest standard of maintaining nav systems," said AET 1st Class Jason Leindecker.

It is vital to know what every vibration, every sound, and every button is in a helicopter because when you are hoisting at 30 feet, there are only seconds to prevent a catastrophe.

The AETs will track down strange electronic indications to the exact wire causing the problem.

Both AETs and AMTs strive to achieve the coveted designation of flight mechanic. The flight mechanic position is probably the most dynamic job during hoisting evolutions. They act as the eyes and ears of the pilot, and have to predict wave period, wave height, wind gusts, and altitude changes while verbally guiding the helicopter over a spot. Precision hoisting is essential to complete a rescue without injuring a survivor or rescue swimmer.

Pilots aren't just pilots; they serve administration functions such as the Commanding Officer, Executive Officer, and Operations Officers. They ensure everyone at the unit is ready to deploy at any given time. As soon as the rotor head stops spinning, they are off to their desks to check emails,

write awards, make flight and duty schedules.

Aside from pilot's collateral duties, they are constantly in the books studying performance charts, mentally rehearsing emergency procedures, and touching up on aircraft systems. It is vital to know what every vibration, every sound, and every button is in a helicopter because when you are hoisting at 30 feet, there are only seconds to prevent a catastrophe; more often than not, a lot of this preparation is done at a desk.

Another key group of personnel that help keep Air Station Detroit helicopters and personnel ready to fly is the support staff. The Air Station has Storekeepers to guarantee that parts for the helicopter are here when needed, the Intelligence Specialist maintain the operational security the Air Station, the Yeomen make sure the paperwork is ready to go for the aircrew when they need to spend the night away from home, Health Services Technicians make certain that everyone at the Air Station is in good health to fly and perform their duties.

Damage Controlmen, Boatswain's Mate, and Electrician's Mate keep the facilities in top working order; civilians and auxiliaries provide unparalleled support for the Air Station in their jobs and volunteer roles. The support staff plays a crucial role to ensuring the helicopters and crews are ready for the Coast Guard missions.

When the Search and Rescue alarm goes off day or night, know that the Air Station is ready to answer the call for the people of the Great Lakes region, and beyond. We are Semper Paratus! Follow us on Facebook at US Coast Guard Air Station Detroit.

VOLUNTEERS

CUB SCOUTS LEND A HAND



U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN RYAN ZESKI

Cub Scout Pack 92 works together on May 7 to wash a static display aircraft at the museum on Selfridge Air National Guard Base. Pack 92 consists of elementary school students from Manfort and Beacon Tree Elementary. These Cub Scouts come out to the museum at the beginning and end of the season to help the aircraft stay at peak condition.



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BASEBALL

Airmen from Selfridge Air National Guard Base at Jimmy John's Field

By Master Sgt.
David Kujawa

127th Wing Public Affairs

Airmen of the 127th Wing from Selfridge Air National Guard Base participated in the United Shore Professional Baseball League's opening day at Jimmy John's Field in Utica May 11.

James Donaldson, a civilian employee from the wing's finance department sang God Bless America which was followed up by a two-ship A-10 Thunderbolt II fly-over, performed by Maj. Erik Simpson and 1st Lt. Kyle Soffin of the 107th Fighter Squadron.

Col. David J. Spehar, Group Commanding of the 127th Maintenance Squadron took the mound and threw the first pitch of the league's season.

In appreciation of the citizen Airmen who work at the base, Andy Appleby, the league's president and CEO, presented Spehar with a league jersey with No. 100 on the back in recognition Selfridge's 100 years of continuous service to the nation and the state of Michigan.

As the game continued so did the recognition of the base. Between the 4th and 5th innings, the sold out crowd was treated to Spehar leading three young Airmen in reciting the oath of enlistment as they became the newest members of the wing.

After the wrap-up of the sixth inning the score board displayed the official portrait of Technical Sgt. Jeffrey Koss, a recruiter for the 127th Wing, honoring him as their hometown hero.

Spectators at the stadium enjoyed the game and showed appreciation for service members with resounding applause every time Selfridge was recognized throughout the evening.

"It was not only a perfect night for baseball, it was also a great feeling and opportunity of community interaction with the [Airmen] of Selfridge," said David Sunderlik, a local resident from Romeo.



Col. David J. Spehar, Group Commander of the 127th Maintenance Squadron from Selfridge Air National Guard Base, launches the first pitch for Jimmy John's Field opener at Jimmy John's Field in Utica on May 11, 2017. The park not only celebrated its opening day, it also was a day of honoring its local military service members.



Col. David J. Spehar, Group Commander of the 127th Maintenance Squadron from Selfridge Air National Guard Base, enlists three of the newest Airmen in the 127th Wing during Jimmy John's Field opener at Jimmy John's Field in Utica on May 11, 2017.



U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTOS BY MSGT. DAVID KUJAWA

Two A-10 Thunderbolt II's of the 107th Fighter Squadron from Selfridge Air National Guard Base perform a fly over during Jimmy John's Field opener at Jimmy John's Field in Utica on May 11, 2017.



James Donaldson, a Civilian Title 5 federal employee of the 127th Wing Finance department performs God Bless America for Jimmy John's Field opener at Jimmy John's Field in Utica on May 11, 2017.

ACHIEVEMENT

Spring a time of renewal, perfect time to focus on education

By Chief Master
Sgt. Lisa Bradley
127th Operations Group
Superintendent



Chief Master Sgt. Lisa Bradley

With the arrival of spring, this time of year signifies a time of growth or a birth of renewal. We begin to think about shedding the old habits that have weighed us down and becoming more open to inviting change into our lives. Every enlisted member of the 127th Wing should take this opportunity to step back and evaluate their readiness to support the Wing's mission to provide trained, equipped, and motivated air refueling, fighter, and support resources.

When I'm not at Selfridge, my civilian job allows me to offer career advice to business school students attending the Ross School of Business at the

University of Michigan (Ann Arbor campus). Over the years, I have developed a fondness towards continued education and I firmly believe a well-educated enlisted force allows all Airmen

To ensure the mission of the 127th Wing is executed to the fullest potential, it requires a well-educated and prepared enlisted force.

to excel to their fullest potential.

It is the responsibility to every Airman to be mission ready through developing core competencies and to perform well within their respective Air Force Specialty Code. Each Airman should utilize the information below as a guide towards preparing to take on the next level of leadership and responsibility.

Junior Airman need to work towards completion of their Career Development Courses and application of core competencies through On-the-Job training with the goal to achieve the 5 skill-level. They should prepare and enroll in the Airmen Leader-

ship School either by correspondence or in-residence.

Non-commissioned officers should concentrate on OJT and upgrade training to obtain the 7 skill-level. They will work on the completion of the NCO Academy Intermediate Leadership Experience. Additionally, NCOs should be working towards completion of the Community College of the Air Force Degree and other civilian education opportunities that directly enhance their professional development

Senior NCOs should work towards completion of the Senior NCO Academy and completion of the Senior Enlisted Joint Profes-

sional Military Education II professional enhancement course. They should seek to build upon the Associate Degree by completing a Bachelor's Degree.

Professional Military Education does not stop once you obtain the rank of Chief Master Sergeant. Chiefs should complete both the Chief Executive and Chief Leadership Courses. A Chief must seriously consider completing an advanced degree beyond the Bachelor's Degree to facilitate effective communications across every level of the organization.

To ensure the mission of the 127th Wing is executed to the fullest potential, it requires a well-educated and prepared enlisted force. It is the responsibility of every Airman to continually train, obtain the required technical expertise, and seek out mentorship from senior leadership.

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SKILLS



US AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY RACHEL BARTON

Staff Sgt. Jacob Malburg, 191st Maintenance Squadron, performs maintenance on support equipment here. Malburg, an aerospace ground equipment mechanic, maintains powered and non-powered support equipment for the 127th Air Refueling Group's KC-135 Stratotanker fleet as part of his regular duties.

Airman keeps ground equipment running

By Tech. Sgt.
Rachel Barton
127th Wing Public Affairs

Staff Sgt. Jacob Malburg is an Airman of many skills. He serves as an Aerospace Ground Equipment Mechanic for the 191st Maintenance Squadron, maintaining powered and non-powered support equipment for the fleet of KC-135 Stratotankers flown by the 127th Air Refueling Group at Selfridge Air National Guard Base.

Malburg said he began his military career due a desire to give back to his community. He initially enlisted as a Marine Reservist at Selfridge. He served six years as a Civil Engineer in the Marines,

but two years ago Malburg decided to transition into the Air National Guard and pursue his interest in a career as a mechanic.

In his civilian life, Malburg works on a local farm, where he grows vegetables, herbs and perennial flowers. He also serves as a part-time firefighter for Armada Township.

"The skills we use in this career are a universal skill set," Malburg said. "In my civilian career I've been able to repair tractors and other farm equipment, and it has been extremely beneficial to my employer."

Since joining the 191st, Malburg said he has enjoyed working in the AGE shop on a wide variety of

equipment such as generator sets, hydraulic stands and jacks, and heaters.

"Staff. Sgt. Malburg has been a great asset to us since joining the unit," said Malburg's supervisor, Senior Master Sgt. Ray Rottman. "You can task him with anything and he has a great attitude about accomplishing the job. He is very self-motivated and dedicated."

Malburg recently returned from a two month deployment to Southwest Asia with the 127th Air Refueling Group in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. He said he plans to serve at least another 12 years in order to be eligible for a military retirement.

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OUTREACH

Base Community Council supports your hometown Air Force

By **Dr. Keith Defever**
President, Selfridge Base
Community Council

Everyone and everything has a story. That is what connects mankind. The story of the Selfridge Base Community Council, simply known as the BCC, began nearly 70 years ago in 1950. Desmond Arnsby wrote a series of newspaper articles that alerted Mount Clemens citizens to the plight of lonely Airmen stationed at nearby Selfridge Air Force Base.

The mayor responded by appointing a Military Community Relations Committee to provide local outreach to members of the base. That committee succeeded so well that the U.S. Air Force documented these achievements as an example for others as well.

The Air Force commissioned a movie short entitled "The Mount Clemens Story" to show how the city, already known worldwide

for its local mineral baths, was providing recreational, religious, and social facilities for the men and women at Selfridge. The movie premiered at the Jewel Theater August 13, 1951, and was later released nationwide as a theatrical trailer.

That local committee, now 250 members strong, is still active today supporting the military and their families. Membership is composed predominantly of local business owners and professionals in Macomb County as well as local, state, and national leaders, and military members from the Base.

What is it that inspires council members to become dedicated to this remarkable support of our military personnel? As a member of the Council for many years, perhaps my own experiences can help answer that question.

My childhood was spent in nearby Chesterfield, where I grew up hearing the jets frequently,

watching for them in the sky. My grandfather told me it was the sound of freedom. I was intrigued and even took flying lessons one summer during my teen years. After high school graduation, I pursued a degree in zoology at MSU and later received my medical degree from Wayne State University.

I returned to New Baltimore in 1987 to establish a family medicine practice. Over the years, I had the privilege to care for many of the Airmen from the base and their families. Their professionalism and politeness, through all their enduring sacrifices, always impressed me. I wanted to do more.

Like others I wondered what happened behind that fence, so when I was introduced to the council about 18 years ago, I decided to join this dedicated group. Shortly after becoming a member, September 11, 2001

BCC » PAGE 11



U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY MSGT. DAVID KUJAWA

Guest speaker, retired Maj. Brian Shul is just one of the many speakers who share their stories with the Selfridge Base Community Council every month. Shul began his military career as an attack pilot during Vietnam. Being shot down and badly injured Shul was given no chance to live. Surviving, he returned to full flight status, flying the SR-71 Blackbird and later becoming a photographer and motivational speaker.

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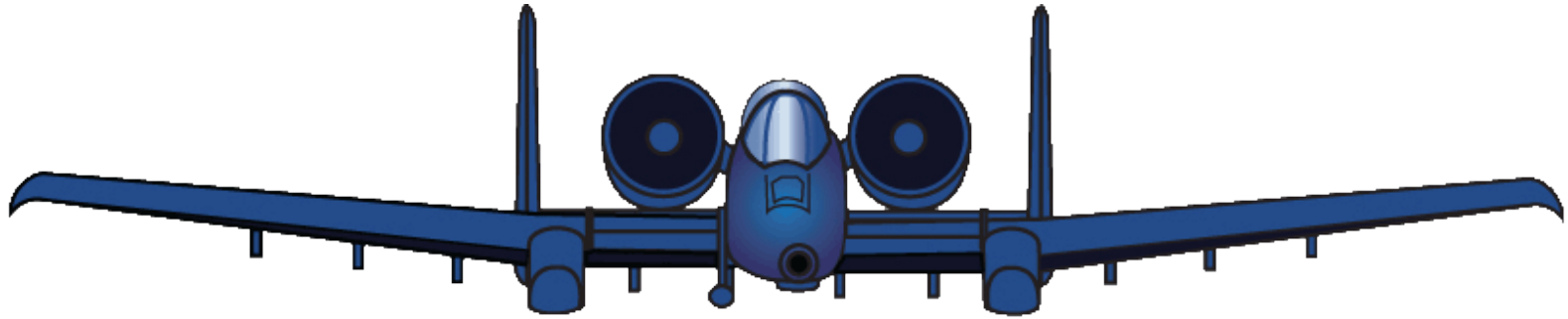


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BCC

FROM PAGE 9

shook our nation, bringing history and the defense of our country up close and personal. As a member of the council I was able to see and hear history being recorded and observe how the military responded through its well-trained branches. I continued to marvel at the professionalism and “can do” attitude of the military while our country was in an emotional upheaval.

Like other members of the council, I attended the monthly meetings, learning more about the base and the military. Guest speakers would update us on base missions, we would listen to former POWs recount their experiences in captivity and others who would share once covert operations or wartime experiences from past wars of Vietnam, Korea, WW II, and even WW I.

It was while attending one of these that my life changed. It was a Christmas time gathering in 2003, Michigan’s then Ad-

jutant General, Thomas Cutler (Maj. Gen. Retired), introduced a young Airman who spoke to us.

She told us how she and her fiancé received orders to deploy to the Middle East. She for six months and then he for six months. As they wouldn’t be able to see each other for 12 months, they decided to marry earlier than planned, but would honeymoon when reunited a year later. She deployed, then he. The couple passed in the air somewhere over the Atlantic.

This was a time before cell phones and Skype, so there was limited communication during their deployment. Tragically, there would be no honeymoon. The next time she greeted her husband, he was in a flag-draped coffin, having made the ultimate sacrifice for his nation. While heartbreaking, this Airman spoke of nothing but the love for her husband, the love for her fellow Airmen, but most of all, her love of country. In spite of the tragedy, it was this love that inspired her to continue serving in the Michigan Air National Guard.

It was her words, her commitment that spoke deeply to me. If this is the cloth our military are cut from, I want to do whatever I could to help make their lives better. So I rolled up my sleeves and became more involved with the Council and its work to help the men and women who serve.

Today the council endeavors to educate its members on anything related to the military to help keep community members knowledgeable and aware of the challenges our service members face while abroad and at home. Whether it’s providing annual scholarships for college bound children for those stationed at Selfridge; or to come to the aide of a Sailor who was left disabled after a brutal attack while on vacation in Central America, one of our top priorities is supporting our military members and their families.

The council also advocates for the community to secure the future of the base during times of Base Realignment and Closure Acts in Congress, when possible financial cuts could weaken or potentially close the base, or

Today the council endeavors to educate its members on anything related to the military to help keep community members knowledgeable and aware of the challenges our service members face while abroad and at home.

even expanding base operations and new missions. Occasionally this requires finding attorneys and lobbyists as well as letter writing campaigns to protect the base from closure.

Most recently the council has been promoting Selfridge for the new home of the Air Force’s fifth-generation fighter, the F-35. Selfridge has been selected as one of five National Guard bases being considered for housing the new F-35 squadron. The council has worked with the Macomb County Chamber and Macomb County Executive, Mark Hackel, to launch the MIF35.org website to inform the public community on why it is important to the state and the nation that these aircraft are stationed at Selfridge.

Finally, 2017 marks a signifi-

cant milestone for Selfridge as it celebrates one hundred continuous years of military aviation. The council is proud to be a part of an extra special centennial celebration. Honoring our veterans and inspiring future generations, this much anticipated event will take place on August 19-20, 2017.

To learn more about the Selfridge Base Community Council, visit SelfridgeCommunityCouncil.com. For more information on open house and airshow visit teamselfridge.com or join Facebook Selfridge ANG open house and airshow.

Dr. Keith Defever, MD is an owner and practicing family medicine physician at Bay Area Family Physicians, PC in New Baltimore, Michigan.

VA Mortgage Helps Take Veteran’s Dreams Higher

“I felt welcomed immediately when I visited FreeStar Financial to pay my car loan,” said Craig Nelson, a Navy veteran who recently moved from Illinois to accept a job with the Army at the Detroit Arsenal. “Because of the excellent service, I decided to refinance my land contract with FreeStar Financial into a Veterans Administration (VA) mortgage. Anytime I had a question, it was answered in a

timely manner and explained thoroughly to me.”

FreeStar Financial Credit Union began in 1957 at what is now Selfridge Air National Guard Base. Today, the credit union continues serving military throughout the state and civilians in 10 counties in Southeast Michigan.

“As a credit union founded on a military base, we continue to support our active and retired

military members by offering loans and financial services that fit their dynamic needs,” said Drema Isaac, President and CEO. “The VA mortgage product, for instance, allows qualifying veterans to become homeowners with flexible terms with no down payment needed.”

To further support FreeStar Financial’s commitment to

the military, the Credit Union will donate \$200 to a military charity of the member’s choice with every VA mortgage. Based on our members’ selections, FreeStar Financial has supported the following military charities: Pets for Vets, John Dingell VA Medical Center, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Disabled American Veterans of Michigan, and the Wounded Warrior Project.

“The process was easy and fast, and I am happy that FreeStar Financial will be there to answer my mortgage questions for the life of my loan,” said Nelson. “This VA home loan has helped me to be able to save money so I can plan for my future. I eventually want to sell my home and move up north,” added Nelson.



Craig Nelson, U.S. Navy Veteran

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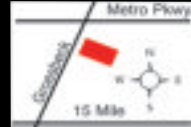
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