

Contact: Carmen David Mirabile
Senior Vice President, Marketing
410-612-2111
cmirabile@freedomfcu.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
September 12, 2018

FREEDOM FEDERAL CREDIT UNION SPONSORS PATRIOT PROGRAM FOR 29 HARFORD COUNTY ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS



Photo Caption

Freedom Federal Credit Union's Business Development Director, Patrice Ricciardi, stands with the 4th Grade Patriots of Prospect Mill Elementary School.

(Left to Right) Top Row: Lindsey Hickam, Claire Bowden, Julia Wilson, Essence Scott, Madison Watters, Samantha Shoemaker, Henry Buyse, Ryan Kilchenstein, Cameron Stepp, Andrew Lamotte, Evan Skinner, Brendan Henderson, Riley Chalpin, MaKenna Scott, Katie Vanarsdale, Sophia Bonincontri, Evan Miller

Middle Row: Nancy Maisura, Brooklynn Porter, Masiyah Rameez, Haniya Aamir, Maureen McMennamin, Cameryn Loper, Laura Tinsley, Jamison Chanski, Mickey Beser, Ethan Stephens, Preston Smith, Ella Seifert, David Martin

Bottom Row: Braden Toms, Grace Bosek, Reilly Skinner, Zoe Tinsley, Miriam Cuatle, Kayla Sowinski, Zachary Griffin, Brody Smith, Imani Gomez, Mackenzie Milich

Bel Air, MD – In continued support of Harford County Public Schools, Freedom Federal Credit Union was pleased to sponsor the Patriot program at 29 participating elementary schools. During the 2017/2018 school year, Freedom provided resources to nearly 7,000 students who completed their Patriot Program requirements.

The Patriot Program is a voluntary program offered to elementary age students to help them learn about their country, patriotism, national and state geography, and government, while developing a sense of appreciation for American history. The program first started at Harford County's Prospect Mill

Elementary School in 2005. At that time, Prospect Mill's PTSA approached Freedom to request support for their 4th grade "Patriots" and it's been growing ever since.

The participating schools within the Patriot Program include: Abingdon, Bakerfield, Bel Air, Church Creek, Churchville, Darlington, Dublin, Edgewood, Emmorton, Forest Lakes, Fountain Green, Havre de Grace, Hickory, Homestead-Wakefield, Jarrettsville, Joppatowne, Meadowvale, Norrisville, North Bend, North Harford, Oak Grove Classical Christian, Prospect Mill, Red Pump, Ring Factory, Roye-Williams, William Paca/Old Post Road, William S. James and Youth's Benefit.

Students are recognized for their participation and achievement during a patriot assembly held at each school. Parents and the local community, including military personnel, are invited to congratulate the students who complete this level of achievement. Assemblies include patriotic poems, recitals and even role playing of famous historic figures like Abraham Lincoln and George Washington. Students memorize the state capitals, Gettysburg Address, Paul Revere's Ride and they also learn fun patriotic songs.

The Patriot program was developed by the schools' PTAs, school administrators, teachers, and parent volunteers.

"We congratulate all the participants on doing such a great job, and for their enthusiasm towards the program", said Mike MacPherson, President and CEO of Freedom. "We are very proud of our ongoing partnership with Harford County Public Schools and appreciate the opportunity to continue to partner on opportunities, like the Patriot Program, to support our students."

County Executive Barry Glassman is invited to attend every patriot program graduation, and always makes a point to quote the late Senator Bob Hooper when he says, "You never stand taller than when you are leaning over to help someone less fortunate." Glassman often adds, "As good patriots, when someone needs a hand, we need to be ready to lend a hand."

Freedom Federal Credit Union believes strongly in the Patriot Program because of its deep military roots. The Credit Union began as MATCOM FCU in 1953, originally affiliated with the US Army Chemical Corps Materiel Command unit, serving the military and civilian workers at the Edgewood Arsenal.

###

About Freedom Federal Credit Union

Freedom Federal Credit Union is a community-chartered federal credit union offering consumer financial services to those who live, work, volunteer, worship, attend school, or have family in Harford County. Additionally, Freedom offers a full-line of banking services for all businesses, associations, and other organizations that are based in Harford County. Freedom has been in business since 1953 and has five locations throughout Harford County. To learn more, visit freedomfcu.org