

# InTouch

A quarterly publication of Keesler Federal Credit Union | Fall 2019

**Kick Off a  
Financially  
Savvy Fall**





**James Hollingsworth**  
Chairman,  
Board of Directors

**D**on't let the heat fool you; fall is here! Fans of football relish this time of year and so does your favorite team here at Keesler Federal. We're energized and eager to kick off another busy quarter championing those who matter most—members just like you.

Back-to-school season was a bit easier for young families and teachers, thanks to our latest community initiative, Backpacks for Bright Futures. Donating backpacks and school supplies to over 6,000 incoming kindergarten students across South Mississippi was quite an endeavor, but the response from children, parents, educators and others in the community made it well worthwhile. All levels of the Keesler Federal team worked together to make this manpower and logistically intensive project happen, coordinating and loading dozens of school buses on distribution day. I also visited several schools to help further distribute backpacks. The gravity of this initiative hit home when a teacher approached me, with tears in her eyes, to say the donation was a blessing that allowed her to focus on educating, rather than worrying about students having supplies. We hope to expand this initiative to other parts of our service area next year. Speaking of education, I know you'll also join me in congratulating the winners of this year's scholarship contest who are featured in this issue.

Recently, Keesler Federal again had the pleasure of honoring the brave community heroes who attended our First Responders Appreciation Dinner. Special recognition was given to 41 outstanding first responders during this inspiring event.

Our motto, "Important to you, Important, to us," drove your credit union to sponsor the upcoming Gulf Coast Gold Star Families Monument in Biloxi. This monument will recognize families who have made the ultimate sacrifice, losing a family member in service of their county. You will see details of the public dedication and unveiling ceremony soon.

As always, we're focused on delivering giving back to and building the communities in which we all live, work, worship and play. Thank you for choosing Keesler Federal to be part of your life. We hope you can see the difference you are making in the community.

Yours in service,

James Hollingsworth



# Thanksgiving Fun Facts

## Impress relatives and guests at Thanksgiving dinner with history, statistics and interesting turkey day traditions!

- The first Thanksgiving was celebrated in 1621 over a three-day harvest festival. It included 50 Pilgrims, 90 Wampanoag Indians, and lasted three days. It is believed by historians that only five women were present.
- Turkey wasn't on the menu at the first Thanksgiving. Venison, duck, goose, oysters, lobster, eel, and fish were likely served, alongside pumpkins and cranberries.
- Abraham Lincoln proclaimed Thanksgiving a national holiday on October 3, 1863. Sarah Josepha Hale, the woman who wrote "Mary Had A Little Lamb," convinced Lincoln to make Thanksgiving a national holiday after writing letters for 17 years.
- John F. Kennedy was the first to actually pardon a Thanksgiving turkey, followed by Richard Nixon who sent his turkey to a petting zoo. George H.W. Bush formalized the turkey pardoning tradition in 1989.
- The average number of calories consumed on Thanksgiving is 4,500.
- The tradition of football on Thanksgiving began in 1876 with a game between Yale and Princeton. The first NFL games were played on Thanksgiving in 1920.
- The average Macy's Thanksgiving Day balloon requires about 12,000 cubic feet of helium to become fully inflated. Macy's department store has the second largest reserve of helium gas in the U.S. The largest reserve is held by the U.S. government.

**Take Keesler Federal with you as you travel this holiday season. Download "Keesler Mobile" today! Visit [www.kfcu.org](http://www.kfcu.org).**

Sources: [worldstrides.com](http://worldstrides.com) - [tasteofhome.com](http://tasteofhome.com) - Rachel Seis.

Keesler Federal is pleased to announce the 2019 winners of the Lisa J. Stubbs Memorial Scholarship Essay Contest



In 1987, Keesler Federal developed an annual scholarship contest to help members achieve their dreams of higher education. The scholarship was named in honor of Lisa J. Stubbs, an eight-year Keesler Federal employee who attended night classes while working full time for the credit union. Lisa died at age 25 after a lifelong struggle with cystic fibrosis. The responses to this year's topic, "**How do you think the banking industry will transform in the next 10 years?**," resulted in a tie and the awarding of one extra \$1,000 scholarship in the Dependent Member category.

### UNDERGRADUATE DEPENDENT WINNERS



**Gabrielle Dewgarde**  
Santa Monica College



**Courtney Gasser**  
Texas A&M



**Ashleigh Floyd**  
Xavier University



**Latisha Brown**  
MS Gulf Coast Community College



**Lance Decker**  
Texas A&M



**Patrick Gray**  
University of Southern Mississippi

### INDEPENDENT ADULT WINNERS



**A special thank you to our panel of judges who reviewed each essay for originality, clarity and meaningful content:**

**Heather Jordan:** Jordan transferred to MacDill Air Force Base 2 years ago from Keesler AFB and currently works at the MacDill Dental Clinic. She has been married for 9 years to her husband, Jordache. They have two children, Nahshon and Nalani, and a dog named Nahla.

**Stacey Butera:** Butera teaches 8th Grade English/Language Arts at Biloxi Junior High and has lived in Biloxi for over 20 years with her husband and two children. She holds a bachelor's degree in English from the University of South Alabama and a Master of Arts in Teaching from Mississippi State.

**Amy LaGrone Crews:** Crews holds a bachelor's degree in English from The University of Southern Mississippi and is pursuing a M.Ed. in Dyslexia Therapy at Mississippi College. Amy is currently teaching at Micah's Mission Hybrid Homeschool & Resource Center in Vicksburg, MS. She resides in Vicksburg with her husband, Craig, and their aussiedor dogs, Chief and Cooper.

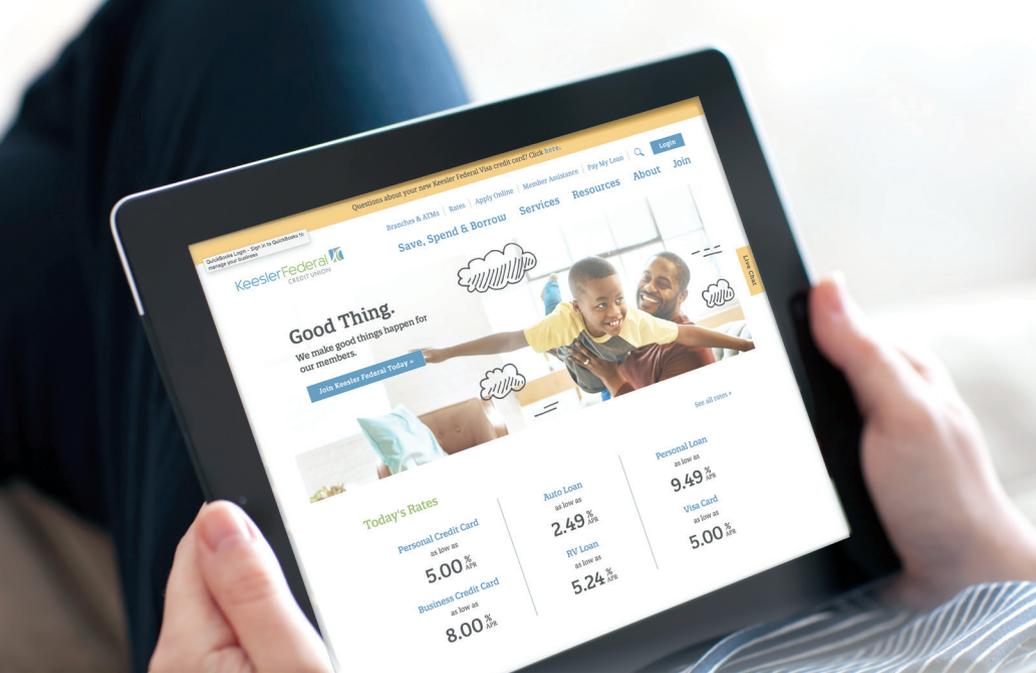
## New Branches Coming Soon

Your credit union continues to thrive and grow, and we are pleased to announce that members in and near **Mobile, Alabama** will soon have two branches to serve that expanding metropolitan area:

- **Westwood Plaza at 7765 Airport Boulevard**
- **Midtown at 100 North Florida Street.**

Both locations are scheduled to be up and running by late Fall 2019. Grand opening celebrations will be held following the new year. Stay tuned for all the exciting details, including information about grand opening specials!





## New Website Features and Upgrades

Have you had a chance to explore the new Keesler Federal website launched in July of this year? Not only is it a complete redesign, featuring our fresh, new look—the site's navigation and content also has been streamlined to make it easier to find the information you want. We also heard your requests and added a Keesler Online login button to the top of every page, so you can conveniently access your account without returning to the home page to sign in.

The new website also boasts a faster and easier online application process for loans, credit cards and membership. **Now, the average time to complete and submit a loan or credit card application is just 10 minutes or less;** you can easily check your application status online as well. At Keesler Federal, we are committed to continually improving your member experience.

When you're ready to give it a try, visit <https://www.kfcu.org/apply-online>.

## Establishing Your Nest Egg



Does your household budget include a plan for your future retirement? If not, it's time to take another look at it. Budgets aren't just for short-term financial obligations like regular monthly bills; it's also a tool to help build a secure nest egg to support yourself beyond your working years.

Maybe you're thinking, "...but there's always Social Security." Unfortunately, too many retirees are trying to live on Social Security income alone and discovering their monthly checks do not stretch far enough to cover all their costs (housing, utilities, food, transportation, healthcare/medications, other insurances and more). Luckily, there are steps you can take now to help yourself 10, 20 or 30 years down the road.

Maximizing your employer's 401k or other tax-deferred retirement plan, especially if it includes

an employer match of your contribution, is one of the easiest and most lucrative ways to "pay yourself first." Since the money is withheld from your check, you don't risk spending it on day-to-day expenses and needless "stuff." In addition to employer retirement plans, other options such as traditional or Roth IRAs, annuities, mutual funds, etc., are available through financial institutions and investment firms. You may also choose to consult with one of Keesler Financial Group's advisors to learn what makes sense for you. The most important thing is getting in the habit of saving.

**Need help reviewing your budget or finding ways to reduce spending? Keesler Federal's Financial Counselor is available to assist you at no charge. Simply call Tammy Scott at 1-888-533-7537, ext. 6407.**



# Honoring our Brave First Responders



## First Responders of the Year Award Winners

*Front row, right - left:* Harrison County Sherriff's Office—**K-9 Deputy Christopher Allen**, Diamondhead Fire Department—**Firefighter Gregory Allen**, American Medical Response—**Brett Armstrong**, Waveland Fire Department—**Firefighter Josh Bell**, Long Beach Police Department—**Sergeant Ray Bell**, Harrison County Sherriff's Office—**Field Training Officer Gina Bond**, Stennis Space Center Fire Department—**Firefighter Lance Bond**, Harrison County Fire Department—**Chief Ronnie Davis**, Hancock County Fire Department—**Assistant Chief Tim Davis**, Mississippi Highway Patrol- Troop K—**Adam Dedeaux**, D'Iberville Police Department—**Corporal Leo DeGeorge**

*Back row, right - left:* Gautier Police Department—**Detective Derek Etheridge**, City of D'Iberville Fire Department—**Firefighter Luke Fletcher**, Gulfport Police Department—**Officer Bryan Fox**, Gulfport Police Department—**Officer Nicholas Hudson**, Gautier Fire Department—**Lieutenant Justin Fremin**, Acadian Ambulance Service- Jackson County—**Barbara Garcia**, Moss Point Fire Department—**Firefighter Kyle Germany**, Stennis Space Center Protective Service—**Lieutenant Timothy Gordon**, Gulfport Fire Department— **Lieutenant Kevin Groce**

On September 24, more than 1,100 guests gathered for the First Responders Appreciation Dinner sponsored by Keesler Federal Credit Union and held at Beau Rivage Resort & Casino in Biloxi.

The gala, now in its fifth year, is one of Keesler Federal's largest community events. The honorees represented 38 police, fire, military and medical response agencies and departments from across the three Mississippi Gulf Coast counties. For more photos of these inspiring heroes, please visit [www.facebook.com/KeeslerFCU](http://www.facebook.com/KeeslerFCU).



## First Responders of the Year Award Winners

*Front row, right - left:* Pass Christian Police Department—**Officer Clint Guenther**, Ocean Springs Fire Department—**Firefighter Will Hatten**, Jackson County Sherriff's Department—**Investigator Matthew Hoggatt**, Hancock County Sherriff's Department—**Deputy Joshua Holland**, Jackson County Fire Department—**Firefighter Derek Kirkwood**, Keesler Air Force Base Fire and Emergency Services—**Staff Sergeant Jeffery Kuliak**, Jackson County Sheriff's Department—**Correctional Officer Ryan Lansdale**, Bay St. Louis Fire Department—**Firefighter Gary Maurice, Jr.**, Ocean Springs Police Department—**Matthew Morvant**, Pascagoula Fire Department Fire Department—**Firefighter Evan Nyers**, Pass Christian Fire Department—**Captain Richard Purchner**

*Back row, right - left:* Keesler Air Force Base 81st Security Forces Squadron—**Technical Sergeant Daniel Wanhala**, Moss Point Police Department—**Sergeant Eric Webb**, Waveland Police Department—**Reserve Officer Igor Rybar**, Pascagoula Police Department—**Lieutenant Terry Scott**, Biloxi Fire Department: Station #1 B Shift—**Battalion Chief David Williams**, **Captain Rodney Strickler**, **Firefighters Jacob Fairley, Jake Vuyovich, John Parker, Shawn Battise, Ronald Garcia, Justin Lopez and Nick Allen**, Hancock County Fire Volunteer Department—**Deputy Chief Michael Taylor, Jr.**, Long Beach Fire Department—**Firefighter Lionel Viera, Jr.**, Biloxi Police Department—**Officer Michael Wheeler (not pictured)**, Ocean Springs Police Department—**Sergeant Len Ordonez (not pictured)**, Diberville Fire Department—**Lance Vogt (not pictured)**



## Giving Back

### Backpacks For Bright Futures

Over 6,200 students entering kindergarten this year received backpacks filled with supplies courtesy of Keesler Federal Credit Union. It's all part of a major community giveback project called Backpacks for Bright Futures. As a result, these students have scissors, composition books, binders, pencil cases, glue and a whole lot more to start off their school year. The kindergarteners represent 64 schools across 16 school districts in the six counties surrounding Keesler Federal's main office.

"Keesler Federal is committed to member and community giveback programs demonstrating the credit union difference. In preparation for our Strategic Planning session, our Board decided to focus on supporting education, knowing the increasing cost of school supplies burdens young families and teachers alike. This project was a win-win-win," said James

Hollingsworth, chairman of Keesler Federal's board.

"Backpacks for Bright Futures gave the opportunity for all levels of the Keesler Federal team to work shoulder to shoulder on this community project. We were able to lessen the parents' financial burden—and teachers appreciated being able to focus on educating and not worrying about supplies," he added.

Anthony Abella, financial education specialist at Keesler Federal, served as the Backpacks for Bright Futures project coordinator. According to Abella: "Working on this project has been very eye-opening. We researched where the need would be for backpacks and school supplies, and were amazed at how much parents and teachers spend per student," he said. "Seeing the smiling faces of kindergarteners as the end result definitely made all the hard work worth it."



## Champions

COMMITTED TO  
OUTSTANDING MEMBER SERVICE

Each quarter, Keesler Federal team members nominate their coworkers for outstanding contributions to Keesler Federal's values and commitment to member service. Congratulations to the 2nd Quarter 2019 winners.



### LEADERSHIP AWARD 2nd Qtr 2019



#### **Erika Glover**, Member Contact Center

Erika leads her team's success with her caring attitude, positive encouragement and coaching techniques. Her management methods help keep her team on track and organized. She champions change by seeing it as a beginning, not an ending, and leads her team with a great attitude and, importantly, a smile.



### PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE AWARD 2nd Qtr 2019



#### **Savannah Roch**, Member Contact Center

Savannah's dedication to the success of her team and Keesler Federal helps assure member satisfaction. She has built a trusting, encouraging training environment by showing patience, positivity and understanding while guiding new team members through the challenges they face. This benefits the team and our members.



### OUTSTANDING MEMBER SERVICE AWARD 2nd Qtr 2019



#### **Ashley Novak-Johnson**, Gautier Branch

Ashley goes the extra mile to support her team and members. Working outside her normal schedule (on short notice), volunteering for Keesler Federal events and providing exceptional customer service is routine for her. Ashley exhibits trust, respect and integrity in her dealings with her team and members alike.



## A Commitment to Member Service

Great Employees. Great Credit Union.

Keesler Federal team members believe in the credit union philosophy, and it shows in their tenure. Our team members are dedicated to making a difference in the lives of members, and, in turn, Keesler Federal has made a difference in their lives. This may explain why so many people begin and end their careers with Keesler Federal.

Keesler Federal team members are recognized for service in 5-year increments (3-year in the UK). We are proud to recognize the following team members who have service anniversaries during the third quarter of 2019:

# Understanding APR and APY

When a financial institution advertises an investment product, like a certificate (also known as share certificate or CD/certificate of deposit), the APR (annual percentage rate) and the APY (annual percentage yield) are required by law to be listed. Why? It's because although they sound like the same thing to many, there are factors that can make them quite different.

Let's start with the term of the investment. The term is the length of time until the investment matures, 1-year, 2-years, 5-years, etc. Annual compounding occurs when the annual interest rate, paid yearly, is paid upon interest already earned. If \$10,000 is invested at an 8% APR for a 5-year term, it

would be worth \$10,800 after the first year. At that point, the APR and APY match, 8% equals \$800. Now, here's where it gets more interesting; compounding begins the second year when 8% interest would be applied to \$10,800 and so on until it fully matures in five years. That's the beauty of compounding; interest is paid on interest. At maturity, the yield is actually higher than the rate!

However, if a product's term is less than a year, the per-year rate (APR) cannot be fully reached because a full year has not elapsed. Interest will only be paid at the APR for the portion of the year the term covers. In such a case, the APY (yield) will actually be less than the APR (rate).

### 45 YEARS

**Bonnie Richard**, *Keesler Financial Group Coordinator, Pass Road*

### 30 YEARS

**Sharon Keller**, *VP-Marketing*

### 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

**Patricia Gauthier**, *Retail Support Spec I, MCC*

**Sheryl Weston**, *Asst Branch Mgr II, Lakeview*

### 15 YEARS OF SERVICE

**Alfredania Applewhite**, *Central UW Mgr, Consumer Lending*

**Olivia Garris**, *Credit Officer II, Indirect Lending*

**Kim Sanders**, *Retail Support Spec II, MCC*

**Viella Bush**, *Asst Branch Manager II, Orange Grove*

**Michelle Scurrah**, *Teller Service Rep III, Larcher*

### 10 YEARS OF SERVICE

**Doreen A. Thornton**, *Financial Service Rep I, Pass Road*

**Chantell H. Sallean**, *Financial Service Rep I, Picayune*

### 5 YEARS OF SERVICE

**Shelby Kline**, *Floating Financial Service Rep II, Lakeview*

**Brandi Trochesset**, *Member Contact Spec II, Seaway*

**Robin Wirz**, *Outbound Call Spec, MCC*

**Natasha Hall**, *Financial Service Rep I, Bay Waveland*

**Stephanie Dale**, *Financial Service Rep I, Ocean Springs*

**Grace Duric**, *Financial Service Rep I, Orange Grove*

**Kimberly Joseph**, *Teller Service Rep II, Pascagoula*

**Erica Pringle**, *Financial Service Rep II, Pascagoula*

**Tracie Cumberland**, *Receptionist, Pass Road*

**Keturah Gresham**, *Lending Support Rep I, MCC*

**Mylinh Nguyen**, *Mortgage Loan Processor I, Pass Road*

# The Top 10 Retirement Planning Excuses

Ten common "reasons" why someone does not plan for retirement.

A Message from the Keesler Financial Group

William E. Morrison,  
Dennis Liverett and  
Ron Weatherly are  
Financial Advisors  
with Keesler Financial  
Group located at  
Keesler Federal CU.

## #10: "I'm too busy"

Stop procrastinating. How does the saying go? The best time to plant a tree is 30 years ago. The second best time is ... TODAY.

## #9: "It's too soon"

It's NEVER too soon. The sooner you start planning, the better chance you stand of having the kind of retirement you want.

## #8: "It's too late"

Think again. Even if you've already retired, it's important to consider how you're receiving income and how long it will last.

## #7: "I don't need to"

This one baffles me. If you're simply giving monthly to a savings account and hoping for the best, you may be in for an unpleasant surprise someday.

## #6: "I don't have enough money to get started"

Starting small is better than not starting at all, and if you plan well, you'll eventually have more to work with.

## #5: "My finances are a mess"

Consider speaking with a Financial Professional who can look at your complete financial picture and help you to develop a plan to make your "mess" work for you.

## #4: "The Government will take care of me"

If you're planning to retire on Social Security

alone, I would advise you to create a back-up plan at the very least.

## #3: "Between my savings and my 401(k), I'll be fine"

Saving for retirement without an income distribution plan could be a mistake. Have you considered inflation? Taxes? If you live to 100, will the money last?

## #2: "I don't want to think about it"

If you bite the bullet now and put a firm plan in motion, you may not have to think about it again for quite some time.

## #1: "I don't know how"

If you knew everything there was to know about financial planning, you'd probably be a financial advisor yourself. If you're putting off retirement planning because you don't know how to begin, consider speaking to a professional who does.

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**Keesler Financial Group**

Call (228)385-4558 for your no-cost, no-obligation appointment today!

# Highlighted Share & Loan Rates

## Shares

### Share Savings (with Compounding)

	Annual Percentage Rate (APR)	Yield (APY)
Balance less than \$5,000	.25%	.25%
Balance \$5,000 or more	.30%	.30%
Christmas Savings	.30%	.30%

### High Interest Money Market Account (HIMMA)

Ask about our new HIMMA Plus!

	Annual Percentage Rate (APR)	Yield (APY)
Balance \$2,500-\$9,999.99	.40%	.40%
Balance \$10,000-\$49,999.99	.40%	.40%
Balance \$50,000-\$99,999.99	.45%	.45%
Balance \$100,000 and over	.50%	.50%

*\$2,500 minimum to open account and to earn dividends*

### Checking Accounts

	Annual Percentage Rate (APR)	Yield (APY)
eAdvantage Checking (qualifying accounts)		
Balances up to \$25,000	1.39%	1.40%

*Non qualifying eAdvantage accounts and amount of balance over \$25,000 earn rates listed below*

### Ultimate & Essential Checking depending on balance

Balances less than \$2,500	.15%	.15%
Balances \$2,500 or more	.20%	.20%

### Individual Retirement Account (IRA)

	Annual Percentage Rate (APR)	Yield (APY)
Traditional	.75%	.75%
Roth	.75%	.75%

IRAs are federally insured separately up to \$250,000

Please check with any office or visit [www.kfcu.org](http://www.kfcu.org) for the current rates or specials on share certificates.

Share rates listed above are effective as of July 1, 2019 and subject to change without notice. See your June statement for the dividend rate paid for the period ending October 1, 2019.

**Federally Insured by NCUA**

## Loans

### New Auto Loans

	Annual Percentage Rate (APR)
Up to 24 months	as low as 2.39% APR
25-36 months	as low as 2.49% APR
37-48 months	as low as 2.59% APR
49-60 months	as low as 2.69% APR
61-72 months (\$15,000 & over)	as low as 3.29% APR

*Example: Monthly payments are approx. \$28.89 per month per \$1000 borrowed at 2.49% for 36 months.*

### New RV/Travel Trailers

	Annual Percentage Rate (APR)
37-48 months (\$10,000 & over)	as low as 5.00% APR
49-60 months (\$15,000 & over)	as low as 5.24% APR
61-72 months (\$20,000 & over)	as low as 5.50% APR
73-84 months (\$25,000 & over)	as low as 6.24% APR
85-144 months (\$35,000 & over)	as low as 7.50% APR

*Example: Monthly payments are approx. \$23.09 per month per \$1000 borrowed at 5.00% for 48 months.*

### Credit Cards

	Annual Percentage Rate (APR)
Visa Signature	as low as 5.0% APR
Visa Platinum	as low as 5.0% APR
Visa Classic	as low as 5.0% APR

*Transaction fees per transaction: cash advance 5%; ISA fee on international transactions 1%.*

### Signature Loans

	Annual Percentage Rate (APR)
Up to 36 months	as low as 8.49% APR
37-48 months	as low as 8.99% APR
49-60 months (\$10,000 & over)	as low as 9.49% APR

*Example: Monthly payments are approx. \$31.69 per month per \$1000 borrowed at 8.49% for 36 months.*

### Share Secured Loans

2.00% above prior quarter share dividend rate (Up to amount of available balance - up to 120 months)

Apply for your loan by phone, 1-888-KEESLER (533-7537), online at [kfcu.org](http://kfcu.org), or visit any branch location.

Rates marked "as low as" vary based on credit history. Certain restrictions may apply. Rates are effective as of October 1, 2019 and subject to change without notice.



# Reward-ier

That's the feeling you get with the  
ALL-NEW Keesler Federal  
Signature and Platinum Visa Cards!

With rates as low as

# 5.00%\*

you don't have to compromise between  
earning great rewards on every dollar you  
spend or paying less interest.

Membership and credit eligibility required

\*Rate current as of 10/10/19 and can  
change quarterly based on prime



Learn more at [kfcu.org](https://kfcu.org)

# Save More

Put your money to work.

Whatever your savings goals,  
we can help you get there with  
savings products that fit your needs.

Federally insured by NCUA  
Membership eligibility required.

Learn more at [kfcu.org](https://kfcu.org)

**Keesler Federal**

CREDIT UNION

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Important to you. Important to us.  
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