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For Immediate Release

## **Navy Federal Honors Passing of Retired USMC Colonel Lee Gound, Hero and Former Credit Union Executive**

**VIENNA, Va. (March 24, 2014)** – With great sadness, Navy Federal Credit Union announces the recent passing of retired U.S. Marine Corps Colonel and former Navy Federal executive Lee C. Gound. Colonel Gound was a highly decorated Marine, widely admired, respected and beloved by his fellow Marines and Navy Federal employees.



“Honor, courage and commitment are the hallmarks of a Marine. I think this is a fitting way to describe Lee Gound, an esteemed Marine Corps and, later, Navy Federal leader,” said Cutler Dawson, Navy Federal president and CEO. “Lee always demonstrated deep dedication and thoughtfulness to those in his command and to Navy Federal members.”

Colonel Gound retired from the U.S. Marine Corps in 1993 after a 27-year career that included service in Vietnam and positions such as Rifle Platoon Commander, Head of the Tactics Department at the Marine Corps Amphibious Warfare School and Commander of the Marine Corps Security Force Battalion, Pacific. Colonel Gound’s many decorations include two Bronze Stars with Combat V and three awards of the Purple Heart for his crucial role in the success of two combat engagements in the Quang Nam province of Vietnam. His awards cite “professional leadership, dauntless courage and loyal devotion to duty at great personal risk, in keeping with the highest traditions of the Marine Corps.”

After retiring from the Marine Corps, Gound joined Navy Federal in 1993, ending his career at the credit union late 2011. During his 18-year tenure, Colonel Gound made many major contributions. He led Navy Federal’s strategy in significantly expanding its worldwide branch network. Under his leadership, Navy Federal added over 100 branches to reach a total of 221 by the end of his tenure. He was also renowned throughout the organization as a gifted speaker, delivering hundreds of training seminars that consistently motivated employees to raise their standards of professionalism and performance.

“Lee was a true hero to all of us at Navy Federal and to the many Marines that he touched during his career,” said Dawson. “He was an officer and a gentleman of the highest order. He made everyone he touched a better person. We will miss him and his superb influence.”

He is survived by his devoted wife, Ethel Jean “E.J.” Gound, his two children Brandee and Travis, and his grandchildren Alexandra and Walker. Colonel Gound was a proud husband, father and grandfather who loved his family dearly.

Navy Federal will be making a donation to the Semper Fi Fund, a non-profit founded by Marine Corps spouses that offers financial support to injured or seriously ill members of the armed forces, in honor of his memory.

**About Navy Federal Credit Union:** Navy Federal Credit Union is the world's largest credit union with \$56 billion in assets, 4 million members, 245 branches, and a workforce of over 11,000 employees worldwide. The credit union serves all Department of Defense and Coast Guard Active Duty, civilian and contractor personnel and their families. For additional information about Navy Federal, visit [www.navyfederal.org](http://www.navyfederal.org).

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