



AACUC African American Credit Union

Hall of Fame

Honoring Pioneers of the Credit Union Industry

Gloria Bowden

Executive Vice President
Democracy Federal Credit Union

Gloria V. Bowden began her 52-year history with Democracy Federal Credit Union (DFCU) in 1969 (then named HEW Employees Federal Credit Union) as a Loan Assistant and Membership Officer. Her strong work ethic and passion for learning allowed her to progress to Assistant Treasurer, then VP/SVP of Member Services, and finally to Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. She repeatedly declined offers to become CEO, preferring to be a strong support to the leadership team and staff. Among her many important achievements, she presided over the charter that extended membership to all D.C. residents in 2003 and the name change to Democracy in 2015.

Known for her honesty, compassion and kindness, Mrs. Bowden was well-loved and respected and spent countless hours with her staff coaching, developing, mentoring, encouraging, and holding them to a higher standard. DFCU members have shared testimonies of her personal care, saving them from financial ruin and giving them a chance at a better future.

Equally near and dear to Mrs. Bowden was her place of worship, Varick Memorial AME Zion Church in Washington, D.C., where she served in many capacities. She is called "Sister" and "Mother" by so many in the Varick and River Terrace communities. She had a gift for making each person feel as if they were the most special person in the world because she truly believed that.

Mrs. Bowden generously gave of her time and treasure to local and national organizations, including: the MD|DC Credit Union Association's advocacy efforts; Advisory Neighborhood Commission; Nonprofit Ministry Finance Committee Chair; Children's Miracle Network; 900 Lunches for the Community; Roblee Community Association; The Power Company Kids Club; and Toy Bears for Children's Hospital, to name a few.

Mrs. Bowden loved gardening, enjoying the unique and beautiful birds in her backyard, fishing, and traveling with family.

Inducted August 24, 2022

TradeWinds Island Resort, St. Pete Beach, FL

2022 Inductees

Gloria Bowden (posthumously) ~ Pamela Herndon ~ Tony Kitt,
André Lucas ~ Cathie Mahon ~ Marsha Majors