

Harborstone Credit Union is celebrating 60 years of serving members!

We set out to talk to some of our loyal members and longest-tenured employees to recognize them and learn about their experiences with Harborstone over the years. One common thread that connects members and employees is the feeling of trust and passion for an exceptional banking experience.



The Merrions' Story

Sixty years ago might be hard for some of us to envision. For valued members Leroy and Ilene Merrion, who opened their accounts with us in 1956, 60 years ago seems like yesterday. Ilene's husband, Leroy, began working at McChord Air Force Base at 16 years old. About a year and a half later, Leroy joined the Navy and was enrolled for four years. He later returned to work at McChord, where he would eventually work his way to being a finance controller. Ilene recalls that when they opened their account with Harborstone, which at the time was still operating under the name McChord Credit Union, you had to either work on McChord or be a family member of someone who worked on McChord in order to qualify for membership.

**She described the branch as just
“a tiny room with a couple of chairs,
located in the women's barracks.”**

Like many others, their first account was a savings account. Since the Merrions never really liked to borrow money, **they primarily used Harborstone as a safe haven for their funds as they raised a family and prepared for retirement.** Ilene recalls opening their very first account with just \$25. Today, the Merrions' children also belong to Harborstone. In fact, just this last spring, Ilene's daughter Patti, who attends our shred event each year, brought her mother with her so that she could securely shred some documents containing private information that she didn't want thrown in the recycling. Ilene enjoys these types of events and admits that she and her husband have held on to so many documents that it “would take us forever to shred [all of them].”

Over the years, Ilene has formed close relationships with some of the staff here and shared that

“Harborstone is a good credit union to belong to.”

She likes “getting to know the girls” and recalls making errors while trying to balance her checkbook on more than one occasion. Harborstone went above Ilene's expectations when staff took the time to go over her check register with her to find and correct the errors. She says, “If you've got a problem, they'll help you out,” and that's what she loves about being a member. Ilene and her husband have raised their kids and are now both retired.

They shared that they **will never stop banking with Harborstone,
thanks to the strong relationship they've built
over all these years.**