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Press Release

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FLORIDA CREDIT UNION LEAGUE'S SHUTES TO BE HONORED AS "WOMAN OF DISTINCTION"

TALLAHASSEE, FLA. - The Florida Credit Union League Executive Vice President Aletta Shutes will be honored as one of the "Women of Distinction" by the Girl Scout Council of the Apalachee Bend, Inc. during the 2007 Women of Distinction Awards Gala to be held on Thursday, November 8 at 7 p.m. at the University Center Club on the campus of Florida State University in Tallahassee. This year's awardees are women from across the Panhandle who are at the top of their game, be it in the arts, business, education, environment, healthcare, technology, or governmental affairs.



Aletta Shutes

Shutes began her career as "a secretary" and rose to become "THE Secretary." In her 33-year career in state government, she was the first woman who rose through the ranks to be appointed Secretary of Administration by then Governor Bob Martinez in 1989 and served until 1991, becoming the first woman to hold the rank of Secretary in Florida's state government. After helping pass Florida's landmark "Taxpayers' Bill of Rights, an initiative many other states now model, she retired from state government, having reached the pinnacle of her profession, and sought other new challenges which brought her to where she is now, the Florida Credit Union League (FCUL). As FCUL's Executive Vice President, Shutes has led FCUL lobbying efforts and has grown the Credit Union Political Action Committee (CUPAC) amount from \$23,000 to more than \$500,000 annually, allowing Florida credit unions to have an even greater voice in the political arena.

"I am still in awe," said Shutes. "It is a great honor to be nominated for this. I am very humbled to be in the company of these women."

This year's finalists are:

- **Arts:** Julianna Baggott, Chucha Barber, Bobbie Massey, Anna Schrieffer
- **Business:** Kathleen Adkins-Gunter, April Salter-Herrle, Susan Stratton, Glenda Thornton
- **Education:** Rita Buck-Crockett, Diane Brown, Melba Jacobs, Iris Wilson
- **Governmental Affairs:** Aletta Shutes, Loranne Ausley, Anita Favors-Thompson
- **Environment:** Sylvia Alderman, Kathy Archibald, Nancy Brown, Diana Sawaya-Crane
- **Health Care:** Cathy Jones, Kimberly Rooks, Sharon Roush, Molly Shakar
- **Technology:** Kay Stephenson, Sarah Butzin, Pamela Butler, Kate Stewart

The Girl Scout Council of the Apalachee Bend, Inc. held its first Women of Distinction event in 1998 to honor six women who had made outstanding contributions to the community. All proceeds from the awards gala benefit the Girl Scout Council of the Apalachee Bend, Inc. For tickets, sponsorships, or other information regarding the Women of Distinction 2007 Awards Gala & Couture Jewelry Fashion Show,

visit www.WomenOfDistinctionGala.com or contact Samantha Strickland at 850.410.3554 or Raslean M. Allen at 850.386.2131, ext. 25.

(The Florida Credit Union League is a Tallahassee, Florida-based statewide trade association offering a myriad of services focused on meeting the current and future needs of Florida's credit unions. It is the mission of the Florida Credit Union League to ensure an operating environment in which credit unions will thrive.)

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