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**Battleship NORTH CAROLINA Receives  
\$3 Million Pledge from State Employees' Credit Union Members**

**WILMINGTON, N.C.** – The Battleship NORTH CAROLINA announced today a \$3,000,000 pledge from State Employees' Credit Union (SECU) Foundation. The investment is the largest donation received in the capital campaign in efforts to preserve the NORTH CAROLINA and her legacy for generations to come.

Captain Terry Bragg, Executive Director for the Battleship, states, "The Battleship NORTH CAROLINA is honored and humbled by the overwhelming support. Representing nearly 2 million members, the SECU Foundation's generous donation, will fund the construction of a veteran's memorial walkway around the ship, as recognition to the service and sacrifice of all veterans."

The Battleship NORTH CAROLINA is a living memorial to those who serve their country. It is also a center for education and inspiration to future generations of leaders. Self-supporting, not tax supported, the Battleship relies primarily upon admissions to tour the Ship, sales in the Ship's Store, donations and investments. No funds for its administration and operation come from appropriations from governmental entities at the local, state or federal levels.

Jim Barber, U.S. Navy veteran and immediate past Chair of the SECU Foundation, shared his sentiments. "As a proud Navy veteran, this project holds a special place in my heart and I couldn't be more thrilled that my fellow members are providing \$3 million to build the SECU Memorial Walkway. The Battleship NORTH CAROLINA holds the stories of many North Carolina veterans who fought for our Country's freedoms, and this Walkway will honor the legacy of this World War II Memorial for years to come."

"It was an honor to be part of the Memorial Day service that took place on the deck of the USS Battleship NORTH CAROLINA, in the presence of where so many World War II veterans served their Country," said McKinley Wooten, SECU Foundation Board Chair. "The spirit, compassion and commitment of SECU members for our State's veterans is demonstrated through the funding of the SECU Memorial Walkway. This Walkway will represent a path to lead future generations back in time to learn the significance the USS Battleship NORTH CAROLINA holds for our great State and Country."

At the time of her commissioning on 9 April 1941, the Battleship NORTH CAROLINA was considered the world's greatest sea weapon. Armed with nine 16-inch/45 caliber guns in three turrets and twenty 5-inch/38 caliber guns in ten twin mounts, NORTH CAROLINA proved a formidable weapons platform. Her wartime complement consisted

of 144 commissioned officers and 2,195 enlisted men, including about 100 Marines. She is one of the most decorated ships of World War II.

### **About SECU and the SECU Foundation**

A not-for-profit financial cooperative owned by its members, SECU has been providing employees of the State of North Carolina and their families with consumer financial services for close to 77 years. With 1.9 million members, SECU provides services through 254 branch offices, 1,100 ATMs, 24/7 Contact Centers and a website, [www.ncsecu.org](http://www.ncsecu.org). The SECU Foundation, a 501c (3) charitable organization funded solely by the contributions of SECU members, promotes local community development in North Carolina primarily through high impact projects in the areas of housing, education, healthcare and human services.

### **About the Battleship North Carolina**

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