In 2011, Mid American Credit Union will mark its 75th anniversary. We'll share reaching a significant milestone with our state — Kansas will celebrate its 150th year of statehood.

It was because of a federal law that Mid American opened its doors in 1936 in Wichita. At that time, employees and volunteers of credit unions in Kansas could not borrow from their own

credit union. We began as a federally chartered credit union, known as Kansas Federal Credit Union, to serve those employees and volunteers of Kansas credit unions.

When federal legislation changed allowing employees and volunteers full access to their own credit unions, we became state chartered, opened our field of membership and in 1979 changed our name to Mid American Credit Union.

Because the qualifications for our membership changed, we needed to identify a niche for ourselves and we have successfully done that over the past three decades. We are a credit union that works with Kansas employers to be the credit union of choice for serving their employees' financial needs — be it a place to directly deposit paychecks, to finance a home or a vehicle or even obtain financial education at a seminar.

We now work with approximately 300 employers, who are known as our employee groups. Most of you have joined our credit union through that avenue. Some of our more than 23,000 members nationwide have come to us through the variety of options we have continued to add throughout the years.

Although we have undergone changes by acquiring branches and enhancing services, one thing has remained a constant: We opened to serve Kansans and provide access to a member-owned, nonprofit cooperative offering financial products and services with better rates on savings and loans and lower fees and charges. This essential mission remains unchanged.

So as we celebrate our 75th anniversary in 2011, I want to take this time to thank you, our members and owners, for your continued confidence in this credit union. We look forward to serving you for many more decades.

- Jim Holt, president/CEO