



Apply for a **personal new money loan up to \$3,500**, twelve month repayment plan, at an interest rate **as low as 3.50%\* APR!**

- ✿ After Christmas Expenses ✿ Winter vacation
- ✿ Home or car repairs ✿ Real Estate Taxes

\*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Certain restrictions apply, see Credit Union for details. All loans subject to approval. Rates, terms and conditions subject to change and vary based on creditworthiness and qualifications. New money loans only. Must qualify for personal allowance. Final rate is based on credit score. Maximum loan amount is \$3,500. Payment example: \$3,500 personal loan with a 12 month term at 2.90% APR would have monthly payments of approximately \$296.28 per month. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Offer excludes all loans already financed at the Credit Union. Offer available December 1, 2025 to January 31, 2026.

## Spirit of America Supports our Members with the David J. Spatz Memorial Scholarship

Spirit of America serves members of all ages, assisting them to achieve financial success. For those striving to earn a college degree, we take pride in offering our David J. Spatz Memorial Scholarship!

### Here are the eligibility details:

- Applicants must be a Credit Union member with a satisfactory account as of December 31, 2025.
- Enrolled in an undergraduate or associates degree program with an accredited college.
- Verifiable college enrollment documentation.

**Scholarships to be awarded:** **Timeframe:**

**1<sup>st</sup> place: \$1,000.00**

**Open Date:** 2/01/2026

**2<sup>nd</sup> place: \$750.00**

**Close Date:** 3/31/2026

**3<sup>rd</sup> place: \$500.00**

**Subject:** To be announced in January 2026 (check our website)

**Essay Length:** Maximum of 500 words



**Eligibility:** Participant has a GED or high school diploma and is enrolled or plans to enroll in college (junior, community, state or university) in the calendar year 2026. Participant MUST be a member of Spirit of America Federal Credit Union as of December 31, 2025. Credit Union employees, volunteers and their immediate family members are eligible as "blind judging" is utilized.

**Winners Announced:** Scholarship winners will receive free tickets to the Credit Union's Annual Meeting (April 23, 2026) when their "Certificate of Award" will be presented. Scholarship funds will be paid directly to the college the student is enrolled during 2026.

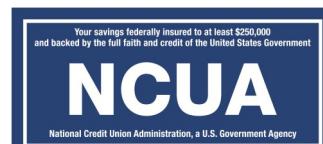
Contact us for details 402.467.1102 or visit [www.spiritofamericafcu.org](http://www.spiritofamericafcu.org).



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**Office Closings**  
**January 1 - New Years Day**  
**January 19 - Martin Luther King Jr Day**  
**February 16 - Presidents Day**

**January 2026 Edition**



**Proudly serving Military, Federal, Postal Employees and their families.**

## Did you purchase a new vehicle in 2025?

Part of the "Big Beautiful Bill" included some changes to car loan interest. Below is information from the IRS regarding a possible tax deduction:

- **New deduction:** Effective for 2025 through 2028, individuals may deduct interest paid on a loan used to purchase a qualified vehicle, provided the vehicle is purchased for personal use and meets other eligibility criteria. (Lease payments do not qualify.)
  - ⇒ Maximum annual deduction is \$10,000.
  - ⇒ Deduction phases out for taxpayers with modified adjusted gross income over \$100,000 (\$200,000 for joint filers).
- **Qualified interest:** To qualify for the deduction, the interest must be paid on a loan that is:
  - ⇒ originated after December 31, 2024,
  - ⇒ used to purchase a vehicle, the original use of which starts with the taxpayer (used vehicles do not qualify),
  - ⇒ for a personal use vehicle (not for business or commercial use) and
  - ⇒ secured by a lien on the vehicle.



If a qualifying vehicle loan is later refinanced, interest paid on the refinanced amount is generally eligible for the deduction.

- **Qualified vehicle:** A qualified vehicle is a car, minivan, van, SUV, pick-up truck or motorcycle, with a gross vehicle weight rating of less than 14,000 pounds, and that has undergone final assembly in the United States.
- **Final assembly in the United States:** The location of final assembly will be listed on the vehicle information label attached to each vehicle on a dealer's premises. Alternatively, taxpayers may rely on the vehicle's plant of manufacture as reported in the vehicle identification number (VIN) to determine whether a vehicle has undergone final assembly in the United States.
- The VIN Decoder: <https://vpic.nhtsa.dot.gov/decoder> - website for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) provides plant of manufacture information. Taxpayers can follow the instructions on that website to determine if the vehicle's plant of manufacture was located in the United States.
- **Taxpayer eligibility:** Deduction is available for both itemizing and non-itemizing taxpayers.
  - ⇒ The taxpayer must include the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) of the qualified vehicle on the tax return for any year in which the deduction is claimed.
- **Reporting:** Lenders or other recipients of qualified interest must file information returns with the IRS and furnish statements to taxpayers showing the total amount of interest received during the taxable year.

**Guidance:** The IRS will provide transition relief for tax year 2025 for interest recipients subject to the new reporting requirements.

(Source: <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/one-big-beautiful-bill-act-tax-deductions-for-working-americans-and-seniors>)

**Your Spirit of America FCU statement will show your year-to-date interest paid on your loans. Use this when you are preparing your 2025 taxes. If you have questions, please consult a tax advisor.**



## 2026 Wall Pet Calendars - \$12 each!

We have a few calendars still available. Call or stop by the office to purchase one. Proceeds will be donated to the Capital Humane Society.

