

FDIC News

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Employee Newsletter

APRIL 2025

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FDIC Risk Specialist Seeks to Sow Seeds of Happiness

By Sonya Weakley
Writer, Office of Communications

It all started with a book about Finland. Following the Covid pandemic, Jitendra Rathod noticed that people in his community in Crofton, Maryland, were not gathering and socializing as they had previously. As he pondered the situation, someone gave him a book about why Finnish people are known as being among the happiest in the world.

“The way I summarize the book is that when people come together and give back to the community, the people in that community are happy,” said Rathod, who is a Senior Quantitative Risk Specialist in the Division of Complex Institution Supervision and Resolution (CISR). “So, I thought, what can I learn from this?”

In April 2023, Rathod, along with his wife and four friends, started [FarmUnity](#), a nonprofit organization that now involves more than 300 volunteers who work together to farm three 4,000-square-foot community gardens in the local area for the primary purpose of doing something together as a community. “The whole point is let's get the community together.”

Rathod, who received the Nancy K. Rector Public Service Award at the 2024 Chairman's Awards ceremony, approached the Crofton Public Library in early 2023 with the idea for starting a community garden on land surrounding the library building.

As a backyard gardener, Rathod thought that if people had a reason to



Jitendra Rathod

come outside, they would begin to interact and feel less isolated. “When I was a kid my grandparents had a farm, and I observed how to do it on a large scale.”

The library not only provided the land for the first garden but also provided “seed” money of \$5,000 to get the project started.

BY AND FOR THE COMMUNITY

Unlike typical community gardens, in which individuals farm a small section for their own use, FarmUnity gardens are for everyone, and the community comes together to do the farming.

“Typically, what we see are people given their plot and they work in that. That is not what I wanted because people work in their garden and go. That doesn't

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serve the purpose,” he said. “A lot of places have a community garden. Ours is a garden for the community.”



Lucy Carroll of Crofton looks peers into the pumpkin patch area of the library garden.

Rathod avoids the phrase “organic” because he does not know the quality of the soil, but he said no chemicals are used in growing the food. Also, certain crops, as well as flowers, which are also grown in the gardens, naturally repel rodents and other pests and are used strategically for that purpose.

Volunteers are welcome to take what they like from the gardens, but most of the food that is grown is donated to charitable organizations, and a certain amount is always available inside the library for anyone to take.

Altogether, FarmUnity has donated 1,600 pounds of food since it started. “People are coming together and giving back to people in need.”

The response has been overwhelming and has spread beyond the immediate area to include gardens at Indian Creek School in Crownsville, Maryland, where the farming is also included as part of the



Vegetables and flowers from the garden are displayed in the Crofton Public Library.

curriculum, and to a nonprofit organization in Millersville, Maryland.

“The school is very important because the kindergarten students through the 12th grade are all involved in our garden, so they learn about sustainable farming.”

In addition, two other schools, North County High School in Glen Burnie, Maryland, and Pheonix Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, grow more than 3,000 seedlings for the gardens as part of their curricula.

AN EXPANDED COMMUNITY

But the “community” is even broader, Rathod said. It includes an agriculture expert at the University of Maryland, who responds to questions and provides advice, and a law firm in Washington that provides legal services at no cost.



Angelina Lozado of Crofton exits the garden to show off the cucumber she just picked.

Furthermore, a group of master’s students at New York University and engineering students in India are perfecting the use of artificial intelligence to manage the drip irrigation systems that are used in the gardens.

“If the moisture is less than 50 percent, the watering system will start,” he said. “And we have our own weather station at the library, so before the watering system starts, it will check with the weather station to see if there’s going to be rain in next 24 hours.” If so, the water system will not start.

But the “community” does not stop there. After reading about a design studio in Germany that creates public structures based on how people interact with their surroundings, Rathod reached out to artist Olafur Eliasson and architect



Rathod consults with Library Manager Skip Auld

Sebastian Behmann and was invited to visit Studio Other Spaces in Berlin. As a result, they agreed to design a garden pavilion where people can gather, as well as a cart for displaying the vegetables in the library. Rathod hopes the structures will be built this summer.

“When I started, the model was people coming together. But I never expected that people would be coming together on a global scale.”

KEEPING PEOPLE TOGETHER

In addition to a three-member Board, FarmUnity has leaders in different areas who take the lead in regard to what needs to be done. “We have a system of volunteering where we announce when we’re going to meet. It’s all automated through our [website](#),” he said.



FarmUnity volunteers work in the community garden at the Crofton Public Library.

Besides gatherings at the gardens, FarmUnity celebrates with harvest festivals, for which meals are prepared from food grown in the gardens.

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"I have seen a lot of energy when all these folks come on Friday and sometimes on Saturday, Sunday too. It is just so much fun, and just a couple of hours goes very quickly."



Residents gather and eat fresh foods made from produce from the gardens during a FarmUnity harvest festival.

Rathod said he hopes to expand the program but wants to keep the focus on schools and libraries because those are places people come to gather and to learn. Anyone interested in getting more information can contact FarmUnity at farmunity@farm-unity.org.

"It doesn't matter who you are, your country of origin, or your economic status. Let's just come together and do something fun." 🏡



A young volunteer helps market the vegetables in the Crofton Public Library.



Volunteers gather after a day in the garden to relax and enjoy the results of their efforts.



FarmUnity volunteers gather for a group photo.



Members of Crofton High School tennis team pose after volunteering in the garden.

Want to Brush Up Your Skills? A Wealth of Training Opportunities is at Your Fingertips

By Sonya Weakley
Writer, Office of Communications

Maybe you've always wanted to take a little deeper dive into learning Excel or even some of the more powerful Microsoft software. Curious about AI (artificial intelligence)? How about employee coaching? Corporate University (CU) has got you covered.

CU has a wide range of options for no-cost, no-travel training. You'll find them through CU's online training platforms, including LinkedIn Learning, the American Bankers Association (ABA) and the FDIC's FLX online platform. And it's all right at your fingertips.

"A question we keep getting is 'what training is still out there for employees? How can we make them feel supported?'" said Cassandra Cloud, CU Program Manager.



LINKEDIN LEARNING

Often people are unsure where to look first. LinkedIn Learning is a good starting point.

Just ask Nicole Cunningham, Learning and Development Specialist and Program Manager for Online Learning Platforms, who manages LinkedIn Learning and develops custom "learning paths"—a series of courses that consist of individual videos that can be viewed in short sessions, when time is available. "A video could be five minutes. Some of them are a minute and a half. It just depends on the topic," she said.

In addition to the videos she said many courses offer documents that are relevant to the course content, such as templates for practice or future use, or a list of the references that were mentioned in the course.

Employees can set up their own profile, where they can save the courses they have taken or want to take to their own library. Another feature is the option to create a "career journey." Based on the answers to a few questions, LinkedIn Learning picks the best courses to meet a particular career goal.

On the LinkedIn Learning page, CU has added a set of suggested courses for commonly requested topics: business skills, technology skills, soft skills and leadership skills. But these are only a handful of the more than 21,000 courses on everything from mindfulness to cloud administration to articulating your value to storytelling.

For those interested in certifications, LinkedIn Learning offers a wide range of courses to prepare for the Project Management Professional (PMP) or Microsoft Power Platform Fundamentals (PL-900), as well as many other popular certifications, including Six Sigma, Cloud Security Alliance, Adobe, CISCO, Salesforce, and more.

"You're not going to take the certification exam on LinkedIn Learning, but it's going to give you everything you need to make sure you're ready to take that exam," Cloud said.

A wide range of continuing education credits are also available to maintain certifications, including the PMP and various HR, business and technology certifications. "Instead of paying a vendor to keep your credential up to date, you can consider this training that is free to you as an employee, and is available any time," she said.

A number of courses, including multiple AI courses, are taught by well-known experts in their fields. Also featured are leadership experts, such as



Kim Scott, who leads courses based on her popular book "Radical Candor."

"You're hearing from people who really matter—people who are really known for their expertise or are uniquely gifted at speaking to it," Cloud said. "That's what I think the LinkedIn Learning team does really well."

Some popular course recommendations from LinkedIn Learning include the following:

- **Compassionate Candor:** In this course, Kim Scott, author of the book *Radical Candor* teaches leaders how to create a team on which everyone does the best work of their lives and builds the best relationships of their careers.
- **Problem Solving Techniques:** Learn techniques for identifying the root cause of a problem, generating options, and selecting the best solution. Chris Croft takes you through several methods for identifying what's actually causing a problem, including looking at the whole system when a problem is actually a symptom of a larger issue.
- **Data Literacy:** In this course, Barton Poulson focuses on the fundamentals of data fluency, or the ability to

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Training Opportunities, from page 4

work with data to extract insights and determine your next steps. Barton shows how exploring data with graphs and describing data with statistics can help you reach your goals and make better decisions.

- **Power BI Essentials Training:** By the end of the course, you'll know how to use PowerPoint tools and follow a few simple design rules to draw attention to your message and deliver a presentation that shines.
- **Introduction to Artificial Intelligence:** This course is designed for project managers, product managers, directors, executives, and students starting a career in AI. Not only will you get a high-level overview of the top tools in your field and learn algorithms and techniques involved in machine learning, artificial neural networks, and deep learning, but you'll also dive into more complex themes and questions.
- **Communication Foundation:** The course introduces the four building blocks of communication—people, message, context, and listening—and show how they apply in different circumstances. Through the use of vignettes and applied tools, the course shows how to build this core competency and communicate in a way that effectively and professionally conveys your message.
- **Time Management Fundamentals:** In this course, productivity expert Dave Crenshaw can help open up your week by showing you how to get more done in the shortest time possible. He lays out the theoretical and practical foundations for being more productive, explains the obstacles that can get in the way, and highlights strategies and habits for increasing your productivity.

Cunningham also said courses on Excel and AI have been of interest in recent weeks, including a course called “Smarter Thinking and Better Living in an AI World: A Conversation with Daniel Pink.” These were the top 10 LinkedIn Learning course topics from January to early April:

- Microsoft Excel
- Python (Programming Language)
- Microsoft Power BI
- Microsoft Power Platform
- Project Management
- Financial Accounting
- Product Management
- Information Security, IT Security Assessments, Network Security, Security Operations
- SharePoint
- Data Analytics



FLX

While LinkedIn Learning offers a wide range of learning opportunities, CU's own FLX platform is tailored to the needs of the FDIC. Besides the recurring mandatory courses, such as FDIC Workplace Security, Continuity of Operations, Cybersecurity and Privacy Awareness, due by October 31, it includes business courses in each of the major FDIC functional areas.

“People forget about how much we have in FLX,” Cloud said. “Especially if it's your first few years in the corporation, you can learn about what DIR (Division of Insurance and Research) does, what DRR (Division of Resolutions and Receiverships) does, what RMS (Division of Risk Management Supervision) does, and what DCP (Division of Depositor and Consumer Protection) does. We have training for all of that.”

For examiners, there are courses in coaching and screening for both RMS and DCP. “A lot of these are pre-work for the core schools, but the core schools change all the time. If you took them 10 years ago, these courses might be helpful.”

There are several courses in compliance management as well as risk management, including one that focuses on MRBA (Material Review Board Actions), which may not have been formally taught in earlier core schools. “A lot of times we learn on the job, but you can go back and see if you really understand it.”

In addition to examiner training, CU offers core competencies courses for all FDIC employees. These are a set of courses focused on business skills that are currently being offered through March 2026 through FLX on the following topics:

- Business Writing and Argument
- Presentation and Briefing Skills
- Critical Thinking Skills and Communicating Skills
- Developing Your Data Analysis Skills



AMERICAN BANKERS ASSOCIATION

That's not all. Corporate University offers supplemental online training through the American Bankers Association (ABA), which has learning paths to support the examiner core curriculum for:

- Interns and new hires
- DCP new hire and consumer protection orientation
- Introduction to Consumer Protection School pre-course
- DCP on-the-job training

see **Training Opportunities**, page 6

Training Opportunities, from page 5

ABA offers 400 learning opportunities. New hires in the examiner business lines are provided licenses for their designated learning paths. Supervisors and others who need access may request it by emailing ABACourses@fdic.gov.

While some courses may duplicate core school content, there are a number of different topics, such as communication training and briefing skills that are specific to the banking industry.

“Think of it as a continuing education program,” Cloud said. “It would fall into that—additional courses for experienced examiners.”

Examiners or others are welcome to request information about what the ABA offers or for access to check it out. The ABA’s Banking Foundations Online Courses fall into these categories:

- Onboarding Basics
- Consumer Banking
- Small Business Banking
- Customer Service
- Consultative Relationship Sales

- Workplace Essentials
- Communication Skills



PRACTISING LAW INSTITUTE

[Practising Law Institute](#) (PLI) is a non-profit continuing legal education organization chartered by the Regents of the University of the State of New York. While its focus is on the Legal Division, the curriculum is not limited to law courses.

For example, PLI offers over 80 courses in consumer finance. These may apply to employees in Consumer Education who didn’t go through the core schools or in RMS who want to know more about consumer banking. Topics include the following:

- Consumer Financial Services – Fundamentals 2025
- Consumer Financial Services – Consumer Banking
- Consumer Financial Services – Investments
- Consumer Financial Services – Credit Cards
- Consumer Financial Services – Auto Finance
- Consumer Financial Services – Home Lending

To request access, contact Erica Young, the CU Legal Program Manager.

THE OPPORTUNITIES ARE THERE

For those who are trying to build their skills, CU has the training to get them where they want to go.

“There is so much training available to you,” Cloud said. “And much of it starts from a beginner level.” 🏠

FDIC Alumni Association Announces Annual Essay Contest

By Sonya Weakley
Writer, Office of Communications

Children or grandchildren of current FDIC employees who are college- or vocational school-bound high school seniors are welcome to participate in the first essay contest sponsored by the Association of FDIC Alumni (AFDICA).

The contest is part of AFDICA’s ongoing mission to enhance financial literacy education as well as to strengthen the organization’s ties to FDIC employees, according to Mindy West, AFDICA’s Vice President of Charitable Services, who is leading the effort.

“We want to give back to our company of origin, and we hope people will remember when they leave that there’s this alumni association out there,” West said.

For this year’s contest, students are asked to submit an essay of 500 to 750 words by June 1, 2025, on the following topic:

Please describe challenges and barriers you have faced meeting a personal financial goal, how you overcame them, and lessons you learned in achieving your financial goal.

The essay should be written in English and submitted to essay@afdica.com in PDF format. The winner will receive \$1,000. Judging is based on an evaluation of the content, writing style and creativity. Judges, who are AFDICA members, will not know the identity of the participants. The winner will be announced in June.

While the topic will change each year, it will have a connection to financial literacy,



such as budgeting, setting financial goals, or protecting personal identity.

see **Essay Contest**, page 7

Essay Contest, from page 6

"We do a lot of teaching on the Money Smart curriculum, and financial literacy is important to our mission, so we wanted the topic to be related to that," West said. "We'd like to hear from the participant

their personal experience with financial literacy."

The topic will be announced each year in January. West said AFDICA has set aside guaranteed funding, including a

match from an anonymous donor, for the first five years of the program. More information is available on the [AFDICA website](#). 🏠

Leading Through Connection

By Anthony Feagin,
Corporate University

FDIC News is pleased to join Corporate University to publish the Leadership in Action series of articles exploring emerging leadership development topics that are important at the FDIC. Each month, we feature an article on what it means to be a transformational leader – someone who influences people to think, speak, and act to make a positive difference in their lives and those of others.

Research by Dr. Kim Cameron highlights the importance of positive leadership even in the face of difficulty. Positive leaders emphasize creating positive relationships through connections that enable positive outcomes.

Positive Leaders connect with their followers by fostering trust, empathy, and a shared sense of purpose. As the FDIC navigates a period that seems affected by more than the normal share of volatility, uncertainty, complexity, and ambiguity, now is the time to embrace positive leadership practices that can produce successful performance across the corporation.

THE POWER OF CONNECTION

Connection is a fundamental aspect of being human and serves as a cornerstone of a thriving life. From our earliest days, people have depended on social connections with others to survive and to thrive. Social connection in the workplace is essential for fostering a positive and productive environment. Connection with others enriches our lives in countless ways and has been shown to have transformative impact when nurtured in the workplace.

For more than 30 years, noted authors James Kouzes and Barry Posner studied

leadership practices in more than 70 nations. Their evidence-based research supports an assertion that "Leadership makes a significant difference in levels of engagement and commitment and is perhaps the most important asset in every organization."

Like Kouzes and Posner, Dr. Kim Cameron, as one of the founders of Positive Psychology, grounds his work on positive leadership in decades of research. He emphasizes the transformative power of positive leaders who create environments that inspire and uplift their teams.

KEY WAYS FOR LEADERS TO CONNECT WITH FOLLOWERS

By synthesizing the ideas of Kouzes and Posner, and Cameron, one can identify five of the ways that you can connect with your followers to achieve positive and productive workplace.

- **Building Trust:** Positive leaders demonstrate integrity, reliability, and transparency, which helps followers feel secure and valued.
- **Effective Communication:** They actively listen, provide clear direction, and encourage open dialogue to ensure everyone feels heard and understood.
- **Empathy and Compassion:** By showing genuine care for their follower's well-being, positive leaders create a supportive and inclusive environment.

- **Inspiring Hope:** They provide a vision for the future that motivates and energizes their followers, even during challenging times.
- **Empowering Others:** Positive leaders encourage growth and development by recognizing strengths, offering opportunities, and celebrating achievements.

These practices not only strengthen the leader-follower relationship, but they also create a culture of collaboration and mutual respect. Applying the principles can have a positive impact on both personal and professional relationships. So, how might you apply these principles in your role?

• Building Trust

- **Be consistent:** Keep your promises and follow through on commitments.
- **Show transparency:** Share information openly and be honest about challenges and mistakes.
- **Be reliable:** Be someone others can count on, especially in tough times and situations.

• Effective Communication

- **Practice active listening:** Pay full attention, acknowledge what you hear, and respond thoughtfully.



see **LIA Series**, page 8

LIA Series, from page 7

- Be clear and concise: Convey your message in a way that's easy to understand.
- Encourage feedback: Create a two-way conversation by inviting others to share their thoughts and ideas.
- **Empathy and Compassion**
 - Understand perspectives: Try to see the situation from other's point of view.
 - Show care: Acknowledge emotions and provide support when needed.
 - Be present: Give your undivided attention to others during conversations or moments of need.
- **Inspiring Hope**
 - Set a positive vision: Share an optimistic outlook that inspires confidence in the future.
 - Celebrate progress: Acknowledge even small wins to keep morale high.
 - Stay resilient: Demonstrate perseverance and a positive attitude during challenges.

- **Empowering Others**

- Recognize strengths: Highlight and appreciate the unique abilities of those around you.
- Delegate responsibility: Trust others with meaningful tasks and provide autonomy.
- Offer opportunities: Encourage growth by providing learning experiences and new challenges.

Applying these principles consistently can help foster stronger connections, create a supportive environment, and inspire others to excel. Which of these principles resonates with you most?

CONCLUSION

"Leadership makes a difference. The difference can be negative or positive ... The choice is yours." – James Kouzes and Barry Posner

Dr. Anthony Feagin is an Associate Professor for Leadership and Management in Corporate University's Leadership Development Program. This article was adopted from the following sources: "Learning Leadership: The Five Fundamentals of Becoming an



Dr. Anthony Feagin

Exemplary Leader" by James Kouzes and Barry Posner, A Wiley Brand; "Positively Energizing Leadership: Virtuous Actions and Relationships that Create High Performance" by Kim Cameron, Berrett-Koehler Publishers; "Positive Thinking Through the Lens of Neuroscience" by Sydney Ceruto, mindlabneuroscience.com/blog. 📖

Thank You From the FDIC Library: Resources Use and Usage Survey

By The FDIC Library Staff

The FDIC Library Staff would like to extend their gratitude to all those who participated in our Resources Use and Usage Survey. A total of 14 surveys were distributed, with over 1,200 responses received.

The library team pulled the survey together in response to a request for additional information and justification for the library's resources that support the FDIC. In a matter of hours after receiving the requests, we assembled user lists, generated surveys, and bombarded your email. We are extremely appreciative of everyone who



FDIC Library

took the time to compose comprehensive responses within a short deadline. We are even more appreciative if you completed multiple surveys.

We have devoted the past week to the meticulous examination of the results, which will continue into the spring, and

we would like to share some preliminary discoveries from that data.

These resources are integrated into all aspects of the FDIC, supporting multiple offices. They are essential tools to support

see **Library Survey**, page 9

Library Survey, from page 8

mission-critical and statutorily required work whose loss would have clear and immediate impacts. Data can confirm something you suspect but haven't been able to quantify, and it can also reveal things you didn't expect.

Unsurprisingly, 100 percent of our respondents who use Westlaw identified Westlaw as critical for their work. We discovered that 100 percent of respondents rely on S&P for numerous mission-critical and statutorily required responsibilities across multiple use cases (Historical note: S&P has been used by FDIC employees since the 1930s).

GreenStreet is highly regarded by the library staff, and it appears that our users share this sentiment. According to respondents, “GreenStreet research and articles provide valuable insight into the direction of and sources of risk for various types of CRE (Commercial Real Estate). It provides industry knowledge that allows examiners to ask informed questions about a bank's credit risks.”

The library team learned that one of our own tools, 3di profiler, is even more critical to our processes than we thought; it helps us to ensure that we provide the FDIC with the best possible resources for finding possible competitors, learning where no competitors exist, and reinforcing use-case justifications.


We also heard about the direct impacts to work, research, and statutory responsibilities if our users lost access to library-provided research data and tools. These explanations ranged from work stoppages to decreased data validation and the inability to complete requirements under the FDI Act, the Community Reinvestment Act, and critical, statutorily-mandated reporting for the Board, to the public, and for the Deposit Insurance Fund. We continue to work with our leadership to ensure access to these critical resources.

Following are a few of the word clouds showing the responses of the participants.



As always, if you have any questions or need help, please contact us for assistance at library@fdic.gov. If you missed the chance to respond, and you use a library resource whose loss would directly impact your work, please reach out.

While we are aware of survey fatigue, you may see more targeted surveys in your inbox as we continue to review the FDIC's information and data resource portfolio.

This article is part of an ongoing series of contributions from the FDIC Library. 

Briefs



Acting Chairman Shares Updates on FDIC Policies

April 8, 2025

Read the remarks of Acting Chairman Travis Hill, who shared his thoughts at the American Bankers Association Washington Summit in a speech titled [View from the FDIC: Update on Key Policy Issues on April 8, 2025](#).



Siân Fisher Named Chief Human Capital Officer

April 18, 2025

Dan Bendler, Deputy to the Chairman and Chief Operating Officer, announced on April 11, 2025, that Siân Fisher was selected for the role of Chief Human Capital Officer (CHCO) in the Human Resources Office (HRO), effective April 7. Fisher served as the Acting CHCO since October 2024 and as the Deputy CHCO since June 2021. 🏠

Moving On

Name: Matt Sunkin

Most recent position: Senior IT Specialist

Division/Office: Division of Technology/Infrastructure and Operations Services Branch

Location: Virginia Square Headquarters

When and where joined the FDIC: Joined FDIC in December 2009 in Virginia Square.

Career highlights: My IT career spans over 35 years in various network and security engineering roles. Significant work experience includes: Designing the first WAN (Wide Area Network) at the USDA Research Center using ISDN (Integrated Services Digital Network) circuits and participating in the development of the CVE (Common Vulnerabilities and Exposure) system while working at the MITRE Corporation—a critical tool still in use today that provides a standardized

method for identifying and tracking system vulnerabilities. I was one of the founding employees at an Intel Corporation start-up called Intel Online Services—one of the original web/cloud hosting companies where I worked as network security engineer from 2000 to 2008. Based on my network security expertise, I was hired by SRA international to design and implement three-tier network architectures at the FDIC. I continued this work directly for the FDIC starting December 2009. I am proud to have been a member of NTEU chapter 207 during my tenure at FDIC. I'm a longtime steward and served as President for 2 years.

Retirement date: May 31, 2025

Plans for retirement: I love photography, particularly astrophotography! (I've included a sample astrophotography pic.) I plan to start my own photography business—look for my online presence soon! My wife and I also love



Matt Sunkin

to travel—we just bought a new car and plan to pack it up with gear and hit the road soon after I retire! Going to combine travel with my passion for photography.

see **Sunkin**, page 11

Moving On, *cont.*

Sunkin, *from page 10*



Messier 31

Also looking forward to spending a lot more time with the grand kids and of course my own kids too.

Comments and thoughts: Honestly, I'm going to miss working at the FDIC particularly my NSU (Network Services Unit) team. We've all worked together for so long—we know each other's strengths and weaknesses, which makes us a very powerful team.

Finally, I'll like to say that we all should politely and respectfully speak our minds these days. If you don't speak up about things that are wrong, then people

will assume that you are ok with everything. Don't leave it up to others—there is power in numbers! 🏠

In Memoriam

Ruben D. Peña Luna

Former Program Specialist, CISR, New York Region

Ruben D. Peña Luna, 57, of East Meadow, New York, passed away on April 13, 2025. Ruben was born in Corona, Queens, and later went on to proudly serve 21 years in the United States Marine Corps. After his military service, he continued a life of dedication and integrity through his work with the FDIC. Ruben was a man of loyalty, strength, and unwavering love for his family.

He was passionate about movies, music, and sports—especially his beloved Mets and Jets. You could always count on him to root for them, win or lose. Just as strong as his love for the Mets was his well-known (and proudly voiced) dislike for the Yankees. Whether it was playing

his favorite songs or sharing them with others, music was a constant source of joy in his life. His humor, resilience, and steady presence will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Ruben is survived by his loving wife, Maribel; his two sons, Matthew and Isaiah; his mother, Altagracia; his brother, Freddy; and his sister, Monalisa. He leaves behind a legacy of love, commitment, and service.

A visitation will be held on Thursday, April 24, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Thomas D. Dalton Funeral Home in Levittown, New York. A burial service will follow on Friday, April 25, at 11:30 a.m. at Calverton National Cemetery.

Ruben will be remembered always as a devoted husband, father, son, brother, veteran, and friend. 🏠



Ruben D. Peña Luna