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Robins Federal's 70-year-old CEO to run in the Cherry Blossom 10-mile race in Washington, D.C.

WARNER ROBINS, Ga.—For many of us, the traditional morning begins with a shower and a cup of coffee. Not for Robins Federal's 70-year-old President/CEO, John Ruffin. He has spent the last two months, beginning at 5 AM, training for the April 1st race in Washington, D.C. Ruffin, a lifelong runner, has been gearing up every day on a training regimen leading up to the race. Just last week, he completed 10 miles in 1 hour and 48 minutes.

Ruffin carries a long list of races he has completed through the years, including numerous marathons throughout the country. He has run in Georgia's famous Peachtree Road Race in Atlanta six times.

When the opportunity came to run in this 10,000-runner race, Ruffin couldn't pass it up. "It's for a good cause," says Ruffin. The race benefits the Children's Miracle Network. Ruffin is one of only 53 participants running in the over-70 age group.

To run in the race, Ruffin had to pledge \$6,000. \$5,000 came as a corporate donation from the credit union. Then the idea came about to challenge the credit union's staff to raise the other \$1,000.* The name "John's Joggin' for Juniors" was formed. "It has grown into an enormous event from there," says Traci Jolley, Marketing Manager for Robins. What began as a challenge to get the staff involved—from a pie in the face for Ruffin from the top contributor to a homemade breakfast prepared by Ruffin himself for the top fundraising department or branch—has grown into bake sales, raffles, CUBAY auctions, etc. With two days left to raise money, the staff has already raised over \$2,300. "We just had no idea everyone would take on the project and run with it," says Jolley. "It has been a real team building experience for all of us and for a good cause—the children in our local communities."

*Ultimately, the credit union staff raised over \$5,000!

