

**News Release**  
**Leaders in Banking Excellence  
Receive Honors**



For immediate release  
August 11, 2022

The Indiana Bankers Association has recognized five members of the Indiana banking community with Leaders in Banking Excellence awards, the Association's highest honor. The awards ceremony took place Aug. 5 at the Indianapolis Renaissance North Hotel.

At the honors ceremony, presentations were made by dignitaries including: U.S. Rep. Trey Hollingsworth; Director Thomas C. Fite, Indiana Department of Financial Institutions; IBA Immediate Past Chairman Michael S. Zahn; and Amber R. Van Til, IBA president and CEO. Additionally, each honoree was invited to make comments, and each was presented with an ebony keepsake plaque.

The awards ceremony culminated with the showing of a traveling version of the IBA Wall of Excellence. A permanent Wall of Excellence is on display at the IBA offices in Indianapolis, with crystalline plaques representing all the Leaders in Banking Excellence designated since 2018, the year the awards were created.

The class of 2022 Leaders in Banking Excellence represent a range of bankers selected for their positive impact on Indiana banks and the communities they serve. One honoree is deceased and was represented at the ceremony by family members. All honorees were nominated by IBA-member organizations and approved by the IBA board of directors.

**Class of 2022 Honorees**

**Andrew J. Briggs**, Farmers & Merchants State Bank, Geneva

**Harriett Brown** (*deceased*), Springs Valley Bank & Trust Company, French Lick

**David W. Heeter**, Northwest Bank, Muncie

**John M. Kennedy**, gbcBANK, Greenfield

**Garry D. Kleer**, First Bank Richmond

For more information about IBA Leaders in Banking Excellence, including past honorees, visit:  
[indiana.bank/leaders-banking-excellence](http://indiana.bank/leaders-banking-excellence).

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Inductees and dignitaries gather for the presentation of the Indiana Bankers Association's 2022 Leaders in Banking Excellence awards. Shown are (back row, from left): **Thomas C. Fite**, Indiana Department of Financial Institutions; **Andrew J. Briggs**, Farmers & Merchants State Bank, Geneva; **Amber R. Van Til**, Indiana Bankers Association; **Dr. Rex Wells**, nephew of **Harriett Brown**, Springs Valley Bank & Trust Company, French Lick; **David W. Heeter**, Northwest Bank, Muncie; (front row, from left): **Garry D. Kleer**, First Bank Richmond; and **John M. Kennedy**, gbcBANK, Greenfield.

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The Indiana Bankers Association supports Indiana banking through issues advocacy, professional education, and products and services that enhance financial institutions' ability to help build better communities.

**Indiana Bankers Association**

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