News Release

Hiatt Named Leader in Banking Excellence

For immediate release
August 14, 2019



James G. Hiatt, director of First State Bank of Middlebury, was recognized on Aug. 9 by the Indiana Bankers Association as a Leader in Banking Excellence, the Association's highest honor. The award was initiated in 2018 to celebrate exceptional leaders who have positively impacted Indiana banks and the communities they serve. Additionally, five other members of the Indiana banking community were inducted into the class of 2019 honorees.

The awards ceremony took place at the IBA offices in Indianapolis with presentations from dignitaries including: Director Thomas C. Fite, Indiana Department of Financial Institutions; Speaker Brian Bosma, Indiana House of Representatives; IBA Chairman Andrew J. Briggs, Farmers & Merchants State Bank; and Amber R. Van Til, IBA president and CEO. The ceremony culminated with the showing of the IBA Wall of Excellence, where plaques representing each honoree are to remain on permanent display.

The plaque for Mr. Hiatt reads as follows:
James G. Hiatt is a director of First State Bank of Middlebury and Crystal Valley Financial Corporation. He also served the bank as president and CEO from 1982 to 2015. Prominent among Hiatt's accomplishments is his able leadership during the Great Recession of Elkhart County, successfully maintaining bank profitability and retaining all employees despite area-wide economic hardship. Hiatt began his career in 1970 as a computer programmer with First National Bank, Elkhart. His community outreach includes Middlebury Development Corp., Northridge Dollars for Scholars, Greencroft Foundation, Elkhart General Hospital, the Economic Development Corporation of Elkhart County and Michiana Public Broadcasting, among other organizations. He is a member of the Indiana Bankers Association 40 Year Club, a past IBA board member, and a graduate of Ball State University and the Graduate School of Banking at the University of Wisconsin.

Congratulations to the 2019 class of IBA Leaders in Banking Excellence:
David M. Findlay, Lake City Bank, Warsaw
James G. Hiatt, First State Bank of Middlebury
Merle J. Kendall, Spencer County Bank, Santa Claus
Morris L. "Morrie" Maurer, The National Bank of Indianapolis
Robert C. Nelson *(deceased)*, Indiana Bankers Association, Indianapolis
Kip White, The Fountain Trust Company, Covington

For more information, including names of past honorees, visit: indianabankers.org/leaders-banking-excellence

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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.

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