News Release

Kendall Named Leader in Banking Excellence

For immediate release
August 14, 2019



Merle J. Kendall, chairman of the board of Spencer County Bank, Santa Claus, 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. Kendall reads as follows:
Merle J. Kendall is chairman of the board of Spencer County Bank, Santa Claus. His career began with The Dale State Bank in 1954 and took a remarkable turn in 1965 when William A. Koch requested a loan to develop the Santa Claus area. The bank declined, but Kendall offered to partner with Koch to purchase The Lake State Bank, Richland City. By 1968 Kendall had relocated The Lake State Bank to Santa Claus, renamed it Spencer County Bank, and proceeded to lead it through decades of success, all while helping develop the Santa Claus community. Kendall has been honored as Businessman of the Year by the Spencer County Regional Chamber of Commerce, was presented with a Century Award for the bank by former Gov. Mitch Daniels and is a member of the Indiana Bankers Association 40 Year Club.

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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