FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Holt Named Leader in Banking Excellence



INDIANAPOLIS (Sept. 14, 2026) – **Mark A. Holt**, president and CEO of **First Farmers Bank & Trust, Converse**, was honored by the Indiana Bankers Association with the IBA Leaders in Banking Excellence award, presented on Sept. 14 during a ceremony as part of the IBA's Annual Convention at the French Lick Springs Resort. This award celebrates exceptional leaders who have positively impacted Indiana banks and communities. Four other members of the Indiana banking community were also inducted into the class of 2026 leaders.

Indiana dignitaries presented the awards, including Indiana Senate Pro Tem Rodric Bray, R-Martinsville; Director Thomas C. Fite, Indiana Department of Financial Institutions; IBA Chairman David M. Findlay, chairman and CEO of Lake City Bank, Warsaw; Amber R. Van Til, IBA president and CEO; and a video message from U.S. Sen. Todd Young, R-Ind. Honorees were invited to offer their own comments in reflection on their career and the industry.

Honorees received an ebony plaque etched with a portrait and biography. Identical crystal plaques are on permanent display at the IBA office in Indianapolis.

The Leaders in Banking Excellence awards are the Association's highest honor. This year's honorees represent a range of industry leaders. Each was nominated by IBA-member organizations and approved by the Association's Board of Directors. For more information, **visit the IBA's website**.

BIOGRAPHY

Mark A. Holt is president and CEO of First Farmers Bank & Trust, Converse. He joined the bank's board of directors in 1997 and joined its professional staff as an executive officer in 2015. Holt was named president in 2019, at which point he rejoined the board. He was then named CEO as well as president in April 2020. In his time with the bank, it has grown from $150 million in total assets to $3.5 billion; from 40 employees to more than 400; its market cap increased 43%; and it completed 13 acquisitions. Holt serves on the boards of the Indiana Bankers Association, AgriNovus and the Indiana Ag-Biosciences Economic Initiative, and is a past president of the Wabash Valley Veterinary Association. "Doc" graduated in 1985 from Purdue University as a doctor of veterinary medicine and owned and operated a practice in Marion for more than 30 years.

Congratulations to the full 2026 class of IBA Leaders in Banking Excellence:

Alvin "Al" Fritschle, First Bank, Carmi, Ill.
Travis Holdman, KeyState, Markle
Mark "Doc" Holt, First Farmers Bank & Trust Company, Converse
Matthew W. Howrey, North Salem State Bank
D. Grant Whaley, The Farmers and Merchants Bank, Boswell

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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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