FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Whaley Named Leader in Banking Excellence



INDIANAPOLIS (Sept. 14, 2026) – **D. Grant Whaley**, chairman and retired CEO of **The Farmers and Merchants Bank, Boswell**, 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

D. Grant Whaley served the banking industry for 28 years, including 20 years with the Farmers and Merchants Bank, Boswell. He retired from daily leadership responsibilities in March 2026 after serving as chairman & CEO of the bank but continues to serve as chairman of the board. Whaley previously served on the boards of the IBA Service Corp. and IBA Insurance Agency as well as the IBA Ag Banking Committee and the Indiana Grain Indemnity Corporation board. Beyond his professional accomplishments and service to banking, he coached soccer, little league baseball and AAU basketball and served as a church youth leader. He also served on the boards of the Benton Community Foundation and Faith Church Legacy Foundation. Whaley graduated from Purdue University and completed the Graduate School of Banking at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

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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