



OKLAHOMA
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NEWS RELEASE

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Olvis Edwards to be honored for community contributions

PURCELL, OK – Olvis Edwards, Tinker Air Force Base retiree and active volunteer in his Lexington, Okla., community, will receive a service award on Wednesday, Nov. 12 from First American Bank and the Oklahoma Bankers Association (OBA) for his exemplary spirit of volunteerism and community service.

“The Heart of the Community Award recognizes Mr. Edwards’ enthusiastic spirit to make his community a better place,” said Roger Beverage, OBA president and CEO. “We’re fortunate to live in a state where a great deal of importance is placed on volunteerism and personal contribution to each other and our community.”

Edwards is 81 years young and works tirelessly on projects including the annual 89’er Day Celebration and the Lexington Observer, his newspaper he started 15 years ago.

“Olvis is one of the nicest, hardest working and well mannered men I know,” said Jon Lawson, member of the Lexington Chamber of Commerce. “His dedication to the city of Lexington, its residents and businesses, far exceeds any other. Olvis is the sole reason and main driving force in continuing Lexington’s 89ers Day tradition. He is truly a wonderful person who deserves this recognition and we thank him for everything he does. Congratulations Olvis!”

The Oklahoma Bankers Association started the “Heart of the Community Award” to help recognize those outstanding individuals that are willing to make the type of personal sacrifices that make our communities whole. The OBA has asked their member banks to help find these wonderful volunteers in their communities that they see meeting unmet needs all across the state.

“Most citizens serve their communities quietly without seeking recognition, making generous contributions of time and financial resources to a wide variety of worthy causes,” said Susan Tarp, senior vice president of First American Bank. “Olvis Edwards is the epitome of a volunteer and his service is immeasurable. He truly is an inspiration to me, which is why I am honored to nominate him.”

Like the dedicated work ethic of Olvis Edwards, the banks of Oklahoma have been an integral part of Oklahoma life long before statehood. Beverage noted that these banks and bankers have been investing in the hearts of our communities and “the measurement of time and money is not as important as the fact that banks have played a central role in making Oklahoma a wonderful place to live and work.”

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(SEE PICTURES BELOW)



Margo presenting Olvis Edwards with the certificate and plaque.



Susan Tarp of First American Bank in Purcell nominated Olvis Edwards.



Margo Ward, Olvis's wife, Olvis Edwards, Susan Tarp and Michael Murphy-EVP/CFO of First American Bank in Norman.