



It is SpiritBank's privilege to nominate the late Oliver "Tracy" Kelly to the Oklahoma Bankers Hall of Fame.

Tracy coined the phrase, the "ministry of banking" to describe his career, his family bank and the communities they served. He saw his and his bank's role as a ministry to help people and communities financially. Whether that was making someone's business or personal dreams come to fruition ... helping schools or hospitals thrive ... to even turning the bank into an impromptu wedding venue once for a customer in need and giving away the bride ... Tracy was there and supported all with his unique brand of financial ministry.

While Tracy once quipped that "the West was won on bad bank loans" he was a trail blazer in building economies and jobs throughout Oklahoma and abroad. He understood the risks that had to be taken and was willing to step up to those risks for the communities and people he served. He was a true servant-leader who enriched the lives of those he served; built better organizations through numerous volunteer activities – some at the nation's highest levels; and ultimately modeled a more just and caring world not only for our bank but for other banks in Oklahoma and the world around him.

As we embarked on our 100th anniversary at SpiritBank which Tracy helped to build, we interviewed numerous customers who with tears in their eyes told stories of how they, their families, their business, or their employees would not have made it through difficult times without Tracy Kelly. Through these stories and witness we learned, again, the true definition of a community banker and that Tracy was the epitome of that.

We sadly lost Tracy in 2012 in an era where banks were sustaining challenging times. Honoring Tracy by inducting him into the Oklahoma Bankers Hall of Fame would commemorate that there were and will always be, through his many living legacies, the greatness of what banking means to people and to the world. As Tracy would say, "the sermon is now over."