

Edward A. Krei  
15301 Fairview Farm Blvd  
Edmond, Oklahoma 73013  
[ekrei@outlook.com](mailto:ekrei@outlook.com) 405.627.7989

June 28, 2020

Oklahoma Bankers Association  
643 N E 41<sup>st</sup> Street  
Oklahoma City, OK

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am pleased to have the opportunity to submit this letter of recommendation for your consideration of Shirley Barber to be inducted into your Hall of Fame.

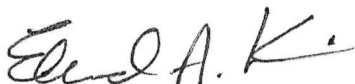
I've known Shirley for almost thirty years having met her with I was with Liberty Bank's broker/dealer. She may not be one of a kind but I think she's pretty close to it – a woman who succeeded in the spirit of a great plains pioneer, who excelled without fanfare, by becoming the President of a rural Oklahoma community bank at a time when female CEO's were a rarity. She worked to learn the business of banking by attending OBA and Graduate level banking programs. Shirley recognized that she could not only give back to the industry but would continue learn and grow through her involvement in the OBA (serving as the OBA's first female Board member) and other banking trade organizations.

Shirley became a Vice President and Director of Security State Bank, Cheyenne, in 1970, Vice Chairman in 1977 and CEO in 1988. Shirley had a wonderful banking career spanning almost five decades. Serving the ranchers, farmers, families and businesses of Cheyenne, Roger Mills County and the surround area was her passion. Shirley's life as a banker was certainly exemplary but as you look deeper into whom she is as a person we can be reminded of the Old Testament book of Micah which gives guidance as to how we should live every day: Do justice, Love kindness and Walk humbly with God. That describes her to a T. She was active in the local chamber of commerce and the Roger Mills County Health Care Foundation in addition to leading the Bank.

I remember running to Shirley and Wayne, her husband, at Will Rogers airport several times. As I remember she was always nattily dressed, usually wearing a colorful jacket. Always excited to talk about the good things happening in Cheyenne and at SSB, she was a proud Oklahoma banker!

I hope you will strongly consider Shirley Barber as a worthy candidate for your Hall of Fame. I can think of no better banker and no better person.

Warmest regards,





## **THE STOCK EXCHANGE BANK**

**BRUCE T. BENBROOK**

Chairman of the Board  
President

June 24, 2020

OBA Bankers Hall of Fame  
Selection Committee

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to serve as a reference for Ms. Shirley Barber and her nomination for induction into the OBA Bankers Hall of Fame. I have had the good fortune to know Shirley for over 40 years and have seen her be an outstanding banker, leader, and a devoted community servant in numerous ways.

Her career started in 1956 as a bookkeeper at Security State Bank in Cheyenne and led to her being named CEO of the bank in 1988. She retired in 2005 after blazing the trail for women bankers throughout our state. She served a chairwoman of the Women's Division of the OBA and became the first female director of the OBA. She served on numerous other OBA committees and was always willing to serve the industry when called upon.

Shirley always found time for her children and grandchildren, supporting them in their many activities.

She was a leader in the Cheyenne community serving on the board of the Chamber of Commerce and the Roger Mills County Health Care Foundation.

Shirley is well-respected and loved by all of her fellow employees and bankers she worked with in Cheyenne and across the state. She would be an outstanding addition to the OBA Bankers Hall of Fame.

If you need other information, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,

Bruce T. Benbrook



Larry Briggs  
President / CEO

January 24, 2020

RE: Shirley Barber

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great pleasure and pride that I recommend Shirley Barber to the Oklahoma Bankers Association Hall of Fame. Mrs. Barber epitomizes a Hall of Fame banker.

I have had the opportunity to know Mrs. Barber since I was a child. She grew up in Roger Mills County, as did I. Because of that, I had the opportunity as a young person to see the respect and admiration that the community had for her.

She loved her customers, her communities, and her staff. She treated everyone with respect and dignity and they knew they would get treated fairly and honestly. My mother worked in the bank in the bookkeeping department and she would make comment on many occasions of how good of banker that Shirley was. The respect that my mom felt for her was indicative of the whole community.

She broke several glass ceiling barriers by becoming one of the first female officers in the Oklahoma banking industry. She also set the stage for others by becoming chairman, vice chairman, president and CEO.

She was active in banking associations and served in several capacities in those organizations. I had the privilege to appoint her the first female board of director of the Oklahoma Bankers Association in 1989. She did an outstanding job in leadership roles in those organizations.

Shirley Barber is a person of character. She is honest, trustworthy, reliable, and an all around good person. Again it is with great pleasure that I submit Shirley Barber as a candidate for the Oklahoma Bankers Association Hall of Fame.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Larry Briggs'.

Larry Briggs  
President/CEO



June 23, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

I offer this letter in support of the nomination of Ms. Shirley Barber for the Oklahoma Bankers Hall of Fame.

Ms. Shirley was a trail blazer for women in the banking industry when women weren't considered trail blazers. One of the first women in Oklahoma to hold the office of CEO and President, the first woman to set as a Director of the Oklahoma Bankers Association. A leader of women within the OBA and regional banking organizations, a mentor to all.

I first came to know Shirley when I started attending Oklahoma Bankers Conventions in the mid to late 1990s. Shirley, and her husband Wayne, were some of the first bankers I met while attending the convention. She thanked me for attending and encouraged me very strongly to get involved with the OBA and take advantage of what they had to offer. Over the next few years Shirley would be sure to look me up during convention to find out what I was up to and if I was getting involved. Shirley was typical of all bankers, never seeking fame or glory, but always looking for ways to serve and encourage. I can think of no other person more deserving of this prestigious award, Oklahoma Bankers Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David J. Cook', is written over a horizontal line.

David J. Cook

President/CEO

Bank of Laverne

[dcook@bankoflavern.com](mailto:dcook@bankoflavern.com)

580-921-3321



499 West Sheridan Avenue, Suite 2505  
P.O. Box 24128  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73124

[www.bok.com](http://www.bok.com)

**To the Oklahoma Bankers Association**

**RE OBA Hall of Honor**

**I would highly recommend Shirley Barber to be inducted into the Oklahoma Bankers Association Hall of Honor. She was a great banker for almost fifty years, a farmer, a mother and a wife and grandmother. Mr. Red Males, whose family owns Security State Bank of Cheyenne took her under his wings and made her a great community banker. Shirley was a trailblazer for females in the banking industry. In 1980, She was the first female director of the Oklahoma Banker Association and served on the Agriculture Committee and the government relations council.**

**After starting her career in 1956 in the bookkeeping department, she rose to be the President and CEO in 1990. I first met Shirley in the mid 1970's from an introduction by her boss Red Males and was impressed the very first time I met her.**

**Shirley Barber is an excellent selection to be inducted into the Oklahoma Bankers Association Hall of Honor.**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Will B. Strecker".

**William B. Strecker, Vice President**

**BOK Financial**