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Four inductees to make up 2025 class for Oklahoma Bankers Hall of Fame

The Oklahoma Bankers Hall of Fame announced today the four bankers who will be inducted into its 2025 class later this year.

R.S. “Brud” Baker Jr., Sandra “Sandy” Bracken, Gary Huckabay and Lee Symcox will make up the 2025 class. The inductees were selected by a panel of bankers from across the state, and were voted upon late last week.

The induction ceremony will be held Dec. 4 at the Oklahoma History Center. It will be hosted by the Oklahoma Bankers Association’s immediate past chair, Alicia Wade, who is COO of Sovereign Bank, in Shawnee.

Following is a quick look at this year’s inductees. More in-depth bios, along with photos, will be available at and after the induction ceremony in December:

R.S. “Brud” Baker Jr.

Brud Baker has been a stalwart of the Enid banking scene for more than four decades, most of that time with Central National Bank and Trust Company of Enid – now known as Stride Bank. Baker helped lead the bank through the oil crisis of the mid-1980s into an institution that boasts of nearly \$4 billion in assets today. He still currently serves as the bank’s chairman and CEO.

Sandra “Sandy” Bracken

Sandy Bracken began her banking career in 1973 at First National Bank of Midwest City. In the early 2000s, she was part of a group of investors that purchased The First State Bank of Canute, where she served as interim president. Later, in 2006, she became the first hire for the newly formed First Liberty Bank, in Oklahoma City. She served with First Liberty as executive vice president and CFO until her retirement in 2020.

Gary Huckabay

Gary Huckabay was involved in southwestern Oklahoma banking since he began working for his father, Clayton, at First National Bank, in Snyder, in the early 1960s. Huckabay later chartered First Mustang State Bank, and all of his family’s banks were eventually merged in 2015 to become All America Bank, in Oklahoma City, of which Huckabay served as chairman emeritus. Huckabay passed away on Nov. 7, 2019, at the age of 81.

Lee Symcox

A fourth-generation banker, Lee Symcox has been a part of the banking industry for more than 50 years. He began his career as a teller at City National Bank of Norman when he was just 14-years old. The last three decades of his career have been with First Fidelity Bank, in Oklahoma City, of which he was named president and CEO in 1993 and still currently serves as CEO.

The Oklahoma Bankers Hall of Fame was created by the Oklahoma Bankers Association in 2018.

Previous inductees are:

2018

Larry Briggs
Ken Fergeson
H.E. “Gene” Rainbolt

2019

John V. Anderson
Clark & Wanda Bass
Mick Thompson
Morrison Tucker

No ceremony in 2020 (COVID pandemic)

2021

Bruce Benbrook
Steve Burrage
Tracy Kelly
Carlisle Mabrey III

2022

Sinclair Armstrong
Shirley Barber
Robert H. Croak
John Massey

2023

Nevyle Cable
James Hamby
Harry Leonard
Ted McGuire

2024

Guy Berry III
Herschel Brewster
Brad Krieger
Gregg Vandaveer

The Oklahoma Bankers Hall of Fame was created by the Oklahoma Bankers Association in 2018. Nominees for each class were selected by a banker roundtable based on contributions to the Oklahoma banking industry, and the final honorees were voted upon by selected bankers. For more information, contact the Oklahoma Bankers Association at (405) 424-5252.

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