



FLORIDA BANKERS ASSOCIATION

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FIDELITY FEDERAL BANK & TRUST'S SHEAROUSE CLAIMS INDUSTRY'S
TOP HONOR

*~Fidelity Federal Bank & Trust Senior Vice President of Corporate Lending Receives
Banker of the Year Award~*

Tallahassee — The Florida Bankers Association (FBA) has announced Fidelity Federal Bank & Trust Senior Vice President of Corporate Lending Joseph B. "Jay" Shearouse, III as Banker of the Year for 2006. Shearouse was surprised with the award during the association's annual convention.

The FBA endeavors to keep the award recipient a secret, until a video presentation is made of the award-winner at a special ceremony. The video documents the banker's distinguished career in the industry, and family members, close friends and colleagues are also included in the production.

"I am incredibly shocked and overwhelmed by the honor," said Shearouse. "I can't express how excited and proud I felt when that video was playing."

Each year, the FBA Executive Committee selects a Banker of the Year who has given so unselfishly of his or her time and effort to improve the Florida banking industry, as well as his or her community.

"Jay has been an incredible advocate for Florida's banking industry for many years," said Immediate-Past Chairman Jerry Williams, chairman, president and CEO, Orion Bank of Naples. "His hard work and dedication to our industry is representative of our members and makes him well-deserving of this honor."

Shearouse has been a very active member of the FBA, having been selected for the FBA's Board of Directors in 2003 and the Executive Committee in 2005. He is currently chairman-elect for the FBA Political Action Committee (BankPAC). Shearouse has been active with the America's Community Bankers, serving on their board this year as well.

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Shearouse has also been active in his community, serving on various boards and commissions, including the Boys and Girls Club of Palm Beach County, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Greater Palm Beach County Chapter, and the Palm Beach County Health and Human Services Planning Commission, which he chaired.

Fidelity Federal Bank & Trust, subsidiary of Fidelity Bankshares, Inc., has assets of \$4.24 billion and operates in Florida through 52 branches, two loan production offices and more than 60 ATM locations in Broward, Palm Beach, Martin and St. Lucie counties.

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