



FLORIDA BANKERS ASSOCIATION

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
Brooke Harrison, Publications Director  
850-591-3223  
[bharrison@floridabankers.com](mailto:bharrison@floridabankers.com)

## FBA Announces 2021 Award Winners

*Florida bankers recognized for outstanding contributions to banking industry and their communities*

TALLAHASSEE--In keeping with tradition, the FBA recently presented awards to a select group of deserving bankers at its 132<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, which took place in Palm Beach earlier this month. The distinguished awards recognize individuals for their dedication and contributions to the FBA and Florida's banking industry. The 2021 award winners are:

- **Lifetime Achievement Award: Kim Davis, CFO, Capital City Bank (Tallahassee) and Rudy Schupp (West Palm Beach)**, who retired from banking in 2018, were presented with the FBA Lifetime Achievement Award. Schupp had most recently served as president and chief banking officer at Valley National following the acquisition of 1st United Bank where he served as President and CEO. Schupp previously served as Chairman and CEO of Republic Security Bank for over 16 years. The Lifetime Achievement Award, established in 2011, is determined by the FBA Executive Committee and presented on a periodic basis to an individual or individuals who have dedicated their professional lives to the banking industry in general and has had a significant impact on the Florida banking industry specifically. Both Davis and Schupp co-chaired the FBA in 1998, the first year after the FBA merged with the Community Bankers of Florida. The merger signified the unity shared among large, medium and small FDIC-insured financial institutions to advocate for and promote the safety and soundness of the banking industry.
- **Amy Hale, Managing Director-Florida, BMO Private Bank (Naples), was given the Horizon Award.** Hale was selected because of her outstanding dedication to the FBA and the goals and objectives set forth by the association. Hale was recognized as a banker who has given above and beyond the expectations of others. For "soaring" above expectations, the Horizon Award winner was presented with a golden eagle trophy. Hale has been a dedicated advocate for the Florida banking industry by attending several trips to Washington D.C., over the years or, more recently by participating in multiple Zoom calls (during the Covid pandemic) to educate lawmakers on banking issues.
- **Javier Jorge, Vice President, SBA Lender, Pilot Bank (Miami), was presented with the Chairman's Award.** This award is given to a recipient selected by the outgoing FBA Chairman, in this case Greg Nelson, to honor someone who has gone above and beyond to support the FBA. Jorge was selected in part because of his unique and vast experience working with the Small Business Administration (SBA) and helping other bankers learn how to process SBA loans when federal funds became available through the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) last year. Bankers throughout the state helped their customers through the pandemic by processing over 733,000 PPP loans totaling more than \$46 billion over the first and second round of PPP funding.

"The FBA is proud to recognize these outstanding leaders of Florida's banking industry who represent the great work of all Florida bankers," said FBA President and CEO Alex Sanchez. "Their dedication to the banking industry, to the state of Florida and to their communities serves as a tremendous example for each of us in our own personal and professional lives."

The FBA also awarded its **Banker of the Year Award** to every Florida banker in recognition of the extraordinary efforts bankers throughout our state made during the Covid-19 pandemic, especially in processing PPP funds and working with individuals, families, businesses and organizations that were financially impacted by the pandemic. The Banker of the Year award typically recognizes an individual who demonstrates the highest level of commitment to the banking industry and service to his or her community.

“Bankers throughout Florida served as financial first responders during the Covid-19 Pandemic and FBA leaders wanted to recognize these collective efforts,” added Sanchez. “There were a lot of heroes who rose to the occasion during the pandemic. Florida bankers worked day and night for weeks processing PPP loan applications and working with customers to help with financial hardships. The financial uncertainty was challenging for many people but our bankers did what needed to be done to help businesses and families make ends meet and keep our economy going.”

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***The Florida Bankers Association (FBA) serves as the primary resource through which Florida financial service providers work in unity to influence the state and federal legal regulatory environment in which they serve their customers. Established in 1888, the FBA is one of Florida's oldest trade associations and has a membership of more than 250 financial institutions ranging in size from small community banks, thrifts and trust companies, to medium-sized banks operating in several parts of the state, to large regional financial institutions that are headquartered in Florida or outside the state. Deposits of the members of the FBA make up 95 percent of total deposits in the state of Florida.***