

For Immediate Release:

For Additional Information Contact:

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Pana, Illinois: As a community bank, Peoples Bank & Trust recognizes the value of volunteerism in our communities. To recognize, commend and promote the volunteerism, Peoples Bank & Trust has established a program to recognize outstanding community members for their volunteer efforts of improvement to our community.

Jim Downs has been chosen posthumously as our current Volunteer of the Quarter. Jim was a well known Civic and Business leader in Pana for many years.

Jim had a spirit of volunteering and was a very active volunteer in Pana and the surrounding area. He was the chairman of the Pana Labor Day Parade for many years, member of the Pana Education Foundation board, Pana Hospital Foundation board and Christian County Mental Health Foundation Board. He was also a member of the Pana Lions Club, Pana Elks Lodge, Pana Eagles, Pana Moose Lodge and the former Pana Jaycees.

Jim was native of Pana. He graduated from Pana High School in 1976, where he was a member of the football and track teams. He was also a graduate of Lake Land College and Milliken University. He worked in the family business, Downs Motors, with his dad and brothers from 1980-2013. Jim and his wife, Denise, are the parents of three children: Cale Downs, Cara Lewis and Cayla Beyers. They also have three grandchildren.

The Jim Downs Scholarship Award was established in 2015 to celebrate the life of Jim Downs. The intent of the scholarship award is to recognize and inspire young people who volunteer and make contributions to help and/or improve their community and surrounding areas. For information on the scholarship award, contact Rob Grotts at 217-820-1634 or Eric Jostes at 217-414-8398.

In honor of Jim's services to the community, Peoples Bank has made a donation to the Jim Downs Memorial Fund and Jim's name will be placed on a plaque to be displayed at the bank.

Peoples Bank & Trust is an independent Community Bank with ten offices located in Pana, Taylorville, Altamont, Tower Hill, Charleston, Springfield, Morrisonville, Palmyra, Waverly and White Hall. Peoples is a full service bank offering outstanding customer service to consumers, small business, and farmers in Central Illinois. People First Bancshares, Inc., with corporate offices in Pana, Illinois, is the holding company for Peoples Bank & Trust.