

For Immediate Release:

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Charleston, Illinois: As a community bank, Peoples Bank & Trust recognizes the value of volunteerism in our communities. To commend and promote volunteerism, Peoples Bank & Trust has established a program to recognize individuals who have exhibited a commitment to community service through volunteer work.

Peoples Bank & Trust has selected Jerry Thomas as a 2025 Volunteer of the Quarter. He has served with many different organizations. Over the years, he has generously given his time and efforts to several organizations throughout the area including the East Central IL Antique Farm Equipment Club, Southern Illinois Tractor Pullers Association, Charleston FFA, National Wild Turkey Federation, Coles County Farm Bureau, and Hutton Township. Jerry is a Coles County farmer and enjoys working alongside his wife, Martha, and children, Justin & Sarah and Jonathan & Sam and takes tremendous pride in his grandchildren, Jared and James.

The East Central IL Antique Farm Equipment Club is a group of many area farmers and ag-advocates that seek to showcase and preserve the farm equipment of the past that laid the foundation to today's agriculture. The club hosts the ECIA Tractor Show annually at the Coles County Fairgrounds, which consists of the Beller and Belch Truck and Tractor Pull, Threshing Demonstration, Tractor Games, and Pedal Pull. This year's event is set to take place from July 16th-19th.

In honor of Jerry's many volunteer activities, Peoples Bank & Trust has made a donation to the East Central IL Antique Farm Club and his name has been added to a Volunteer of the Quarter plaque which is displayed in the bank's lobby. Jerry is the 61st volunteer recognized by the Charleston Branch of Peoples Bank and Trust.

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