

## Peoples Bank & Trust Volunteer of the Quarter Celia Edwards

As a community bank, Peoples Bank & Trust recognizes the value of volunteerism in our communities. Peoples Bank & Trust has established a program to recognize community volunteers who personally exhibit outstanding volunteerism and promote the improvements of our community.

Celia Edwards has been chosen as our Volunteer of the Quarter for the 4th quarter of 2024 for her volunteer work with the Franklin Waverly Military Support Group.

Celia has been involved with the Franklin Waverly Military Support Group since 2002. She joined when her oldest son was deployed to Kuwait during the Iraqi conflict. At that time, it was formed by Pastor Don Long as a place for families of deployed soldiers to come and give each other support. When the need arose, the group started sending care packages to loved ones and any soldier whose name they received. Over the past 22 years, the group has sent over 20,000 boxes. For the past 15 years, Celia has served as the Treasurer and Secretary for the group, as well as the shopper. She has recently recruited help with the shopping, as purchasing items for 100 boxes can be overwhelming. Celia usually conducts a bi-monthly meeting and leads the group in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Celia has resided in Waverly since 1964 and over the years, has been involved in many local organizations, including the Lions Club tractors pulls, which she kept all the records for. Celia and her husband, Bill, have participated in many of the local parades using their draft horses. Bill and Celia have raised many Belgian draft horses. They participate in many plowing and hay mowing events across the country. They host a large plowing demonstration every other year at their farm, which attracts many participants and spectators. The Edwards belong to the Illinois Draft Horse and Mule Association and the Missouri Draft Horse and Mule Association.

Celia's hobbies are sewing, knitting and crafting. She enjoys baking and hosting the family get togethers. With 8 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren, they entertain quite a large group.

In honor of Celia's many hours of volunteer service, Peoples Bank & Trust is making a donation to the Franklin Waverly Military Support Group and her name will be placed on a plaque displayed at the Bank.

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