

CLIFTON – Kerry Bell, President of The First Trust and Savings Bank, and Joey Witte, Chairman of The First Trust and Savings Bank and its parent company First Trust Holdings Inc, presented James Caspary with a corporate resolution honoring his 50th anniversary in banking. The resolution noted that Caspary's long and distinguished career in banking had its roots in Clifton where he managed the First National Bank of Clifton which was later merged into The First Trust and Savings Bank with its other office in Watseka Illinois.

Witte thanked Caspary for his years of service to the organization in numerous capacities which have evolved over the past 50 years and still continue to this date. Having previously been the president of the bank in Clifton, Caspary is currently the president of The First Trust and Savings Bank's parent company and is a director on the boards of both companies. He also continues on the executive teams and other committees for the boards of directors, and provides counsel in numerous areas including strategic planning and information technology.

"Many community bankers today know their own community banks have been strengthened by the service that Mr. Caspary had provided with his years of leadership in community banking organizations and his service on advisory councils and federal legislative bodies," said Bell. He added "strong community banking continues to be the standard in Central Illinois in many ways due to the foresight and contributions made by James Caspary, and The First Trust and Savings Bank prepared a board resolution to commemorate that fact".

The First Trust and Savings Bank provides the Clifton area with a full range of bank products and services delivered by a team of service-oriented staff.

"Changes in local banks sometimes are needed to meet the demands of our customers" said Caspary. He added, "In my 50 years of banking I have tried to make sure we listen to our customers and at the same time stay abreast of new services and technologies that are coming available. Banking has always been competitive and I have tried to keep the big picture in mind with attention to what will keep us strong and serving our customers' evolving needs, while also maintaining good shareholder relations." He concluded his remarks by explaining that Clifton Illinois has been good to him and his family, and he is honored by his many years of association with the fine people of this community.