FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 15, 2019
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Happy State Bank Wins A Top Spot in Statewide Best of Community Banking Awards
Independent Bankers Assoc. of Texas recognizes local bank’s community service and bank culture programs

AMARILLO, TX—The Independent Bankers Association of Texas (IBAT)—the largest state community banking association in the nation—honored Happy State Bank with two Best of Community Banking (BOCB) Awards in September. It received both a gold award and the prestigious “Community Spirit” award, only three of which were given to nearly 40 entries, for its community service entry focused on the Blue Flag campaign, which brought awareness to the sharp rise in child abuse cases in Lubbock and led to the city proclaiming April as Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month. It also received a gold award in the bank culture category for its “Happy Beginnings” and “Happy Rock” new employee training and orientation programs that begin the process of instilling the Happy culture. Happy State Bank President, Mikel Williamson, was on hand to accept the awards.

2019 marks the 28th year that IBAT has celebrated the outstanding accomplishments of Texas community banks with the BOCB Award. Community banks, such as Happy State Bank, play a critical role in their local communities. The Best of Community Banking competition is designed to honor banks for their commitment to helping their customers, employees, neighbors and community. BOCB Awards recognize community banks throughout the state for their innovation, creativity and success in fulfilling a specific community or internal need. Each submission received a gold, silver or bronze award in one of five categories: architectural design, bank culture, community service, financial literacy and marketing.

Happy State Bank previously won the gold award in Financial Literacy for their successful Kids’ Bank program. Enacted in 1997, Kids’ Bank promotes the benefits of savings accounts for all ages.
All BOCB gold, silver and bronze winners were on display during IBAT’s 45th Annual Convention at Moody Gardens Hotel in Galveston, Sept. 21-24, 2019. For more information about Happy State Bank’s award submissions and the programs they highlight, please visit the website at happybank.com.

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**About Happy State Bank**
HAPPY STATE BANK & TRUST CO. has been providing quality financial services to its friends and neighbors since 1908. It operates offices in Happy, Abilene, Addison, Allen, Amarillo, Bedford, Borger, Canadian, Canyon, Dalhart, Dumas, Floydada, Fort Worth, Hereford, Higgins, Lockney, Lubbock, Matador, Memphis, Mobeetie, Olton, Pampa, Panhandle, Plainview, Shamrock, Silverton, Stratford, Sunray, Texline, Turkey, Wheeler, and White Deer, and can be found online at happybank.com. Member FDIC and Equal Housing Lender.

**About the Independent Bankers Association of Texas**
Formed in 1974, the Independent Bankers Association of Texas (IBAT) represents Texas community banks. The Austin-based group is the largest state community banking organization in the nation with membership comprised of more than 2,000 banks and branches in 700 Texas communities. Providing safe and responsible financial services to all Texans, IBAT member bank assets range in size from $21 million to $31 billion with combined assets statewide of $193 billion. IBAT member banks are committed to supporting and investing in their local communities.