

# STARS & STRIPES

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF FIRST AMERICAN BANK AND TRUST

MARCH 2023



## ON DECK *with Jim Henderson*

On August 9th of this past summer our beloved cocker spaniel, Deuce, died at less than 8 years old. He was suddenly stricken with diabetes. After two weeks of intense therapy at the premier facility on the Northshore, he had been stabilized enough for him to return home. On the morning of his homecoming with our commitment to give him insulin injections twice a day for the rest of his life, the call to come pick him up instead informed us that as he was being readied for his departure he died.

Only a pet owner can comprehend our grief.

You can choose never to subject yourself to that heartache again and live the rest of your life without one or you can decide life is in countless ways not worth living without one.

After months of searching, we found our next cocker. And probably last one.

The successor to Tommy, Alfie, Scroggins, Biscuit, Kramer, and Deuce would be Barkley. Now as we deal with the forgotten challenges of puppy-hood, he has repeatedly been called "no Barkley" and "Barkley dammit!"

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The house has been puppy-proofed. All of the temptations at his level have been elevated....or destroyed before they could be. X-mas tree ornaments, Santa Claus, house plants all got routinely placed above his eye level. But the danger zone expanded as he grew and got stronger.

Vertical leaps brought him new targets by leaps and bounds.

Last week on consecutive mornings he leapt unannounced onto my lap, spilling a fresh mug of coffee all over me from head to toe. And the next day by jumping onto the cocktail table he sent a beaker of my wife's chai crashing to the living room floor.

Canine experts estimate that dogs can understand 160 words...maybe as many as 250.

I can say for certain that for Barkley at least, "no" is not one of them. I – on the other hand – have had my vocabulary multiplied. I have discovered cuss words I never knew I possessed.

If you have raised a puppy you know the unavoidable challenges: the 3 am wake-up whimperings and the punishments if you don't respond to them...the travails of house-breaking...the clean-up of what in the house gets broken...the need to account for him 24 hours a day...the new tattoos of scars on your hands resulting from his needle-like puppy teeth and his incessant need to bite and chew with them.

But you also know how much of his behavior is forgiven by his excitement over your return home each evening and the fragrance of his puppy breath as he washes your face with his kisses.

He won't be a puppy forever nor will we have the opportunity to love him and be loved by him forever.

We'll deal with the challenges of raising and protecting him in the meantime. It's a responsibility we signed on for and are again – maybe for the last time – thankful for.

God Bless,

*Jim Henderson*



*In loving memory of*  
**JOSEPH BIENVENUE "J.B."  
FALGOUST**

NOVEMBER 9, 1927 - DECEMBER 15, 2022





The **Team Spirit Award** is presented to an employee who provides excellent customer service and promotes teamwork.

## NOVEMBER



**HEIDI CROCHET**

## DECEMBER



**KACEE HEWITT**

## JANUARY



**JENNIFER BREAUX**

If you would like to nominate an employee who has provided you with excellent customer service, please do so by emailing [krichardson@fabt.com](mailto:krichardson@fabt.com) or by mail to:

**Team Spirit Nomination**  
First American Bank  
PO BOX 550  
Vacherie, LA 70090

In observance of the upcoming holidays, all offices will be closed on:

### **Good Friday**

Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>  
(Close at Noon)

### **Memorial Day**

Monday, May 29<sup>th</sup>

### **Juneteenth**

Monday, June 19<sup>th</sup>

### **Independence Day**

Tuesday, July 4<sup>th</sup>

**Congratulations to the winners of the Quarterly Stars & Stripes Drawing!**

**Trisha C. Tregre** of Vacherie | **Laura Polk** of Gramercy | **Joyce Humphrey** of Norco



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# 2022 TOP LENDERS

and the presentation of the  
**J.B. FALGOUST BANKING AWARD**



Pictured left to right: Todd Elliot, Tyler St. Germain, Robbie LeBlanc, Chief Lending Officer; Brian Nizzo, Bridget Alleman (*Highest % of loan goal*), James LeBlanc (*2022 Top Loan producer*), Brian Reulet, President & CEO; Ronnie Falgoust, Rodney Logarbo (*The J.B. Falgoust Banking Award*), Rachel Dufrene, and Abby Ellender

## Thank you for reading this publication of Stars & Stripes!

To register for a chance to win \$50 deposited in your account, please complete the information below and return to any First American Bank office or mail to:

**First American**  
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AND TRUST  
A BANKING TRADITION SINCE 1910

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please return by April 30, 2023 to be eligible for this drawing.

Winners will be announced in the next quarterly publication of Stars and Stripes.