

PRESS RELEASE

December 2008

Tyler Employees Honored

Austin Bank recently honored four Tyler employees at its 2008 Service Award Luncheon. Richard K. Solomon and Maria Elena Gomez were recognized for 10 years of service. Larry Bolton and Kortney R. Pugh were five year service award honorees.

They were among 36 bank employees recognized for outstanding service and longevity on the job at a luncheon held December 4 at the Cascades Club in Tyler. The annual luncheon recognized Austin Bank employees who completed five, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 or 40 years of service in 2008.

"We are proud to recognize these employees. They work as a team providing financial services to our friends, neighbors and the businesses within East Texas," said Austin Bank Vice Chairman Jeff Austin III. "These valuable employees serve our bank customers on a daily basis through their excellent service."

"At Austin Bank our employees are the difference. We proudly recognize the commitment and dedication each of these individuals has made to the Bank and its customers," said John P. Williams, President and CEO.

The Tyler honorees each with 10 years of service are:

Richard K. Solomon is Regional President of the Tyler and Whitehouse banks. He also serves as Location President of Austin Bank-South Tyler on Old Bullard Road. Solomon has 21 years banking experience that began when he was a banking examiner with the Texas Department of Banking. Solomon is a graduate of Texas A&M University and Southwestern Graduate School of Banking at Southern Methodist University. A resident of Tyler, Solomon is actively involved with the Tyler/Smith County A&M Club, Boy Scouts of America and Pollard United Methodist Church.

Elena Gomez is a Community Lender at the Tyler Med Center location on S. Beckham. Gomez has worked as a Teller, new account representative and Loan Assistant during her Austin Bank tenure. She is a graduate of Tyler Junior College and is currently enrolled at LeTourneau University.

The Tyler honorees with five years of service are:

Larry Bolton is a Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Lending Officer at Austin Bank. He also serves on the bank's Executive Committee. Bolton, who has been in banking about 36 years, is a graduate of Sam Houston State University and the Southwestern Graduate School of Banking at SMU. He is a Board Member of the Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce, the Tyler ISD Foundation and the Tyler Health Facilities Development Corporation. Bolton is also a member of the UT Tyler Executive Advisory Council.

Kortney R. Pugh is Retail Office Manager of the Tyler Downtown location. Her eight years of banking experience includes work as a Teller and Customer Service Representative. In 2007, Pugh became a Certified Customer Service Representative through the Institute of Certified Bankers (ICB) and the American Banking Institute (ABI). She is a graduate of Quitman High School.

Austin Bank is a community bank with \$1 billion in assets. Headquartered in Jacksonville, Texas, Austin Bank serves the needs of East Texas families and businesses through 28 locations in nine counties.

More information about Austin Bank can be found on the bank's website at www.austinbank.com.



Richard K. Solomon



Elena Gomez



Larry Bolton



Kortney R. Pugh