

**For Immediate Release
August 9, 2005**

**Contact: Kelly Smith
(803) 772-5354
M-F 8:30 am - 5:00 pm**

Jonte Named 2005-2006 Independent Banker of the Year

Mr. Leonard L. Jonte, President and CEO of the Bank of Greeleyville was named Independent Banker of the Year by the Independent Banks of South Carolina (IBSC) during the IBSC Convention at Atlantis, Paradise Island, Nassau, Bahamas. Jonte a native of Greeleyville, SC resides there with his wife Virginia. They have three daughters Tracey, Blakeley, and Margaret. The family are members of Greeleyville United Methodist Church where he serves as Chairman of the Administrative Council.

Mr. Jonte received a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of South Carolina and is a graduate of the Stonier School of Banking. He is a Past President and Board Member of IBSC, a former committee member of the Independent Community Bankers of America (ICBA) and a past board member of the South Carolina Bankers Association (SCBA). He is also Past President of the Pee Dee Chapter of BAI and Past President of the Pee Dee Chapter of AIB.

Mr. Jonte is also a strong supporter of various civic and philanthropic organizations. He is Chairman of the Finance Committee for the Williamsburg Regional Hospital, Chairman of the Greeleyville Beautification Committee, member of the Board for Tara Hall for Boys located in Georgetown, SC, and a member of the Planning Board for the local chapter of the American Cancer Association's Relay for Life.

The Independent Banker of the Year is selected from the 68 independent banks in South Carolina. The honor is awarded annually on the basis of outstanding service to the independent banking industry and to the local community. The Independent Banks of South Carolina is an association of 68 locally owned and operated banks in South Carolina, which promotes the interests and general welfare of the independent banks within the state.

