

FIRST OKLAHOMA BANK PRESENTS *Business Leaders with Heart*



EMPATHETIC. ENTREPRENEURIAL IMPACTFUL LEADER.

State Sen. Kevin Matthews is well known for his work in the Oklahoma Legislature and being the driving force behind the Tulsa Race Massacre Centennial Commission. What many may not see firsthand, however, are the simple acts of kindness that Sen. Matthews shares away from the headlines.

On a recent afternoon, standing outside of the Reed Community Foundation where he mentors youth, Sen. Matthews welcomed the approach of a woman who sought nothing more than prayer. Greeting her by name, Sen. Matthews took a moment to pray with the woman who recently had lost two loved ones to COVID-19.

"I, like others, know Kevin to be an impactful state senator and civic leader. The more you get to know him, these random acts of kindness are not so random after all," says Tom Bennett Jr., Chairman of First Oklahoma Bank. "His heart and spontaneous ability to empathize, without considering it a distraction, are a rare quality for most men. But for Kevin, the foundation of who he is and what he stands for is compassion for others."

Sen. Matthews' community involvement encompasses many organizations, including serving on advisory boards for Meals on Wheels and the Veterans Hospital Tulsa. He is the membership chair of the 100 Black Men of Tulsa mentoring organization and founder

of the YES Youth Entrepreneur Shadow Program, which gives small stipends to young people to shadow business owners and inspire them to become business owners.

As founder and chair of the Tulsa Race Massacre Centennial Commission, Sen. Matthews hopes this year's commemoration will encourage discussion and understanding about the carnage that overtook the Black Greenwood community in 1921 as well as the resourcefulness, resilient spirit and innovation that existed within the community.

"My hope is that we humanize the people who lost their businesses, homes, and lives during this tragedy and that we realize this

is our history in Tulsa, in Oklahoma, and in the United States," he says. "We should all participate in learning and telling this story."

One of the barriers to people in Black and Brown communities is lack of access to capital, which makes having a good banking relationship essential, says Sen. Matthews. "At First Oklahoma Bank, they care about me as a person and what I'm trying to do in my community. It's not just about money to them. Good business usually benefits all involved in the long run."



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