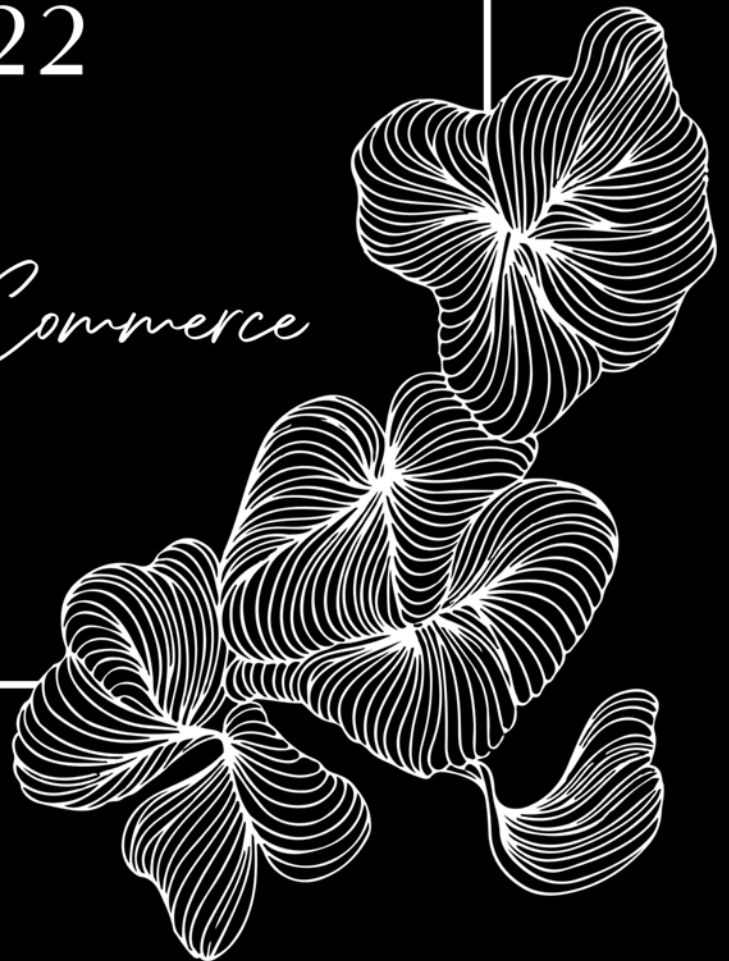


*Gary & Fayrene Akin*

1995 - 2022

*Owasso Chamber of Commerce*





# Dedication

In November 2021, Gary & Fayrene announced their retirement from the Owasso Chamber.

The Owasso Chamber & Friends celebrate and honor the many years of service to Gary & Fayrene.

*Thank you!*

*Your Owasso Chamber Family*



Gary first began working for First Bank of Owasso on July 5, 1976.

While at the bank he was heavily involved with the Chamber, even serving as Chairman of the Board in 1992. Gary was later hired as President of the Owasso Chamber of Commerce in 1995.

In 2000, Gary asked Fayrene to join him at the Chamber and become the Office Manager. They have worked together for the Chamber ever since. Until their retirement in 2022.





*Handwritten signature in blue ink, likely reading "Ronald McDonald".*



Owasso Open House  
1996





From shenanigans in the office to cuddling at Business Over Breakfast;  
The Akins work hard, but also play hard.















# OWASSO'S LONG-AWAITED BAILEY MEDICAL CENTER BREAKS GROUND



Gary Akin  
Owasso Chamber of  
Commerce President

Kevin Gross  
Ardent Health Services  
Oklahoma Division,  
President & CEO

Wilbert Collins, Sr.  
Tulsa County  
Commissioner

Rudy Wolf, D.O.  
Physician

David Vandewater  
Ardent Health Services  
President & CEO

Tracy Painter, M.D.  
Founding Physician

Philip Murta, D.O.  
Founding Physician

Patsy Cravens  
Larkin Bailey  
Foundation

Roy Cartwright  
Larkin Bailey  
Foundation

Tim Pettingell, M.D.  
Founding Physician

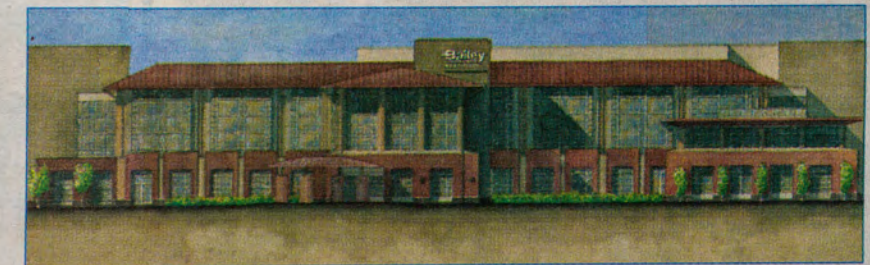
Jon Orjala, D.O.  
Founding Physician

Craig Thoendel  
Mayor of Owasso

Steve Cataudella  
Owasso City  
Councilman

The lodge-like Bailey Medical Center will employ 175 professional staff, and the picturesque campus will include the 6,000 square foot Bailey Education Center, available for community use. The Owasso Independent School District will benefit from an estimated \$315,000 in annual property taxes. A special thanks to the Larkin Bailey Foundation, Owasso Chamber of Commerce, City of Owasso, citizens of Owasso, the physician founders, and Ardent Health Services.

**Bailey**  
Medical Center



Bailey Medical Center Opening Fall 2006

HERE'S TO YOUR GOOD HEALTH.















*Fun Times!*









From Owasso Leadership to  
The Chamber Ambassadors.





















Suzanne Shroy  
Regional Chamber of Commerce

Lisa Mankel  
City of Owasso

Mike Reed  
City of Owasso

Dary Ash  
City of Owasso

Wes Smith  
City of Owasso

Jack Grisham  
City of Owasso

Mary Kubiak  
City of Owasso

**OWASSO**  
Chamber of Commerce

# Gary & Fayrene's Family



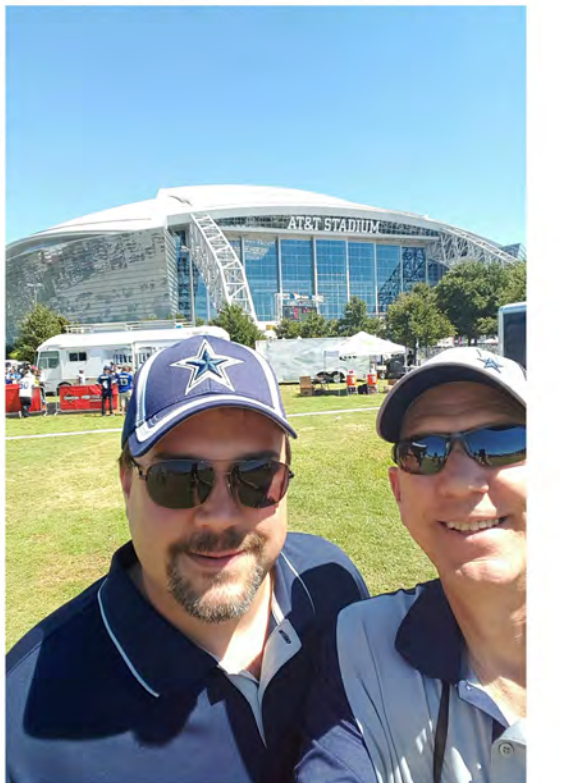
They have two children who graduated from Owasso Public Schools and went on to marry other Owasso graduates. All four of their "kids" are OSU alum.

Aaron and Laura have one daughter. Raina and Benjamin have one son.

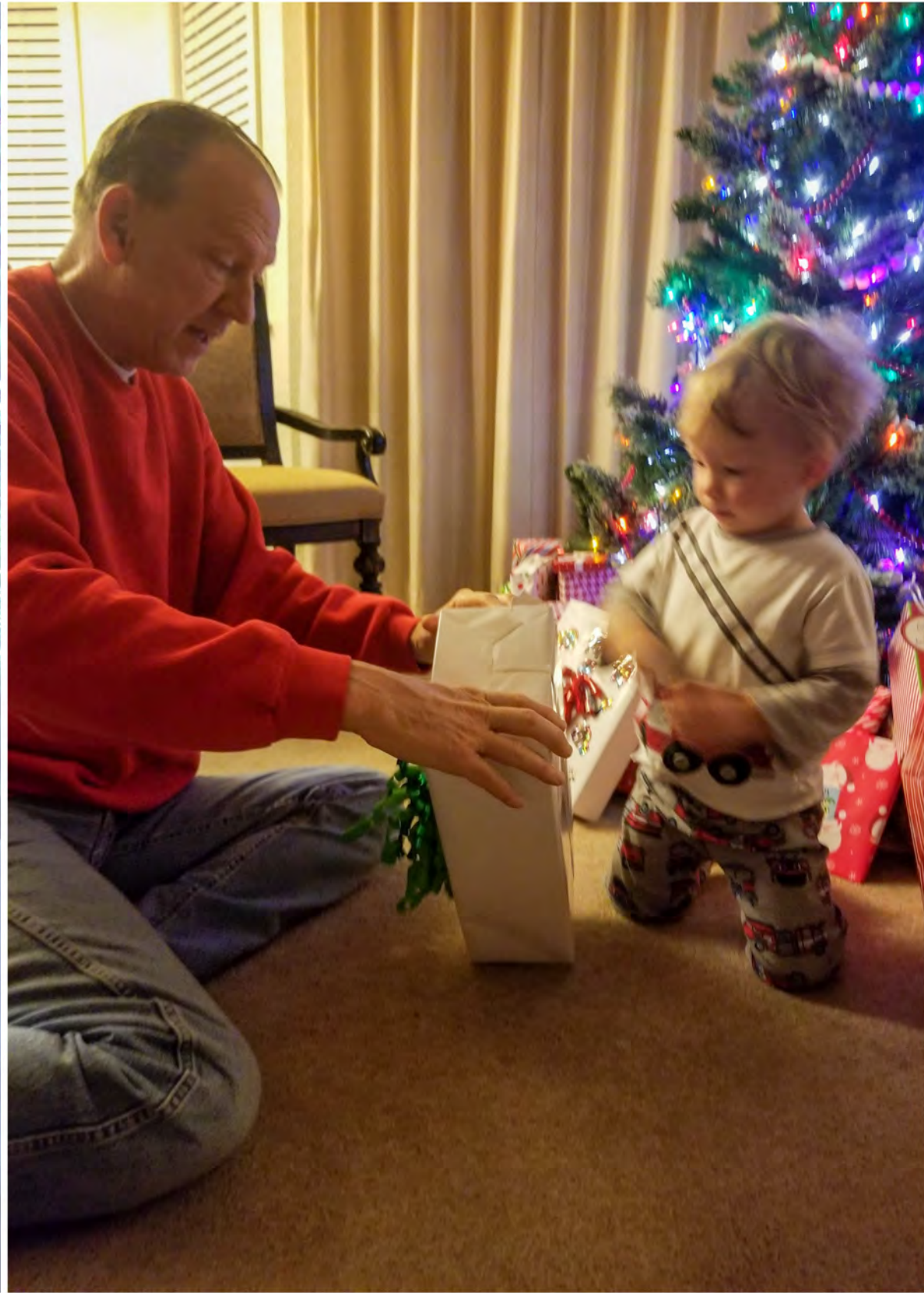




















*The Posse*





In 2015, a \$45 million project widened a segment of US-169 between 56th St. North to near 66th St. North to six lanes and replaced eight bridges. The project ties into previous widening work to the south, which all help provide access to economic drivers like the Tulsa International Airport and the adjacent American Airlines Maintenance Facility.

US-169 widening and interchange improvements have also facilitated better commuter and freight traffic access to the Tulsa Port of Catoosa and associated industries on the east side of the highway. This is the nation's most inland, ice-free port and premier Oklahoma freight location on the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System/M-40, which connects to the Mississippi River and moved 12 million tons of waterborne freight valued at \$3.5 billion in FY 2017.

In February 2022, it was announced that the long-term proposal for U.S. 169 in Owasso — totaling more than \$50 million — includes widening and resurfacing work spanning more than 6 miles between 66th and 116th streets, with 76th slated as the first phase. Work at 66th-86th streets is set to start in Aug. 2024, with the others following at different times and locations, starting in 2025 through 2029.



## Widening of 169

Owasso Chamber President Gary Akin added, “The widening of U.S. 169 has been a top priority for the Owasso Chamber of Commerce for many years. It’s something our Chamber’s been intimately involved with ... advocating for prioritization for funding.”

# Oklahoma Chamber of Commerce Executives' Hall of Fame

Owasso Chamber President Gary Akin (center) poses with Owasso Chamber Board members, friends, and staff during the Oklahoma Chamber of Commerce Executives' annual conference at the Hilton Garden Inn in Bartlesville on Thursday, October 28, 2021.



# 2021 TRC Regional Partner of the Year Award

Owasso Chamber President Gary Akin, center, stands with 2021 Tulsa Regional Chamber Board Chair Rose Washington-Jones, right, and TRC President and CEO Michael Neal during the organization's 2022 Annual Meeting & Inauguration luncheon on Wednesday, January 26, 2022.





## Retirement Announcement

Gary Akin revealed the news of his retirement to attendees at the Chamber's (November) monthly luncheon on Wednesday. This is just a chapter that is closing," Akin said from the podium at the Tulsa Tech Owasso campus, " ... but that's not the end of the book; a new chapter opens up with a great story to tell in a great city."

Akin will leave the chamber next spring after serving at the helm of the organization for the last 27 years, aiming to spend more time with family, traveling and pursuing some personal goals.

The community leader started his longstanding career in Tulsa's northernmost neighboring suburb as a banker at Owasso Bank in 1976. He served on the chamber board for six years before accepting a full-time executive position at the organization in 1995. In 1997, he was named executive of the year by the Oklahoma Chamber of Commerce Executives.

Under Akin's direction, the chamber has expanded its reach by continuing to support small businesses, promote economic development, engage in legislative advocacy and host a variety of networking events and activities, among other local and statewide initiatives.

Akin has worked alongside his wife, Fayrene, for the last 23 of his 27 years as president, telling the Owasso Reporter, "She has been the backbone of the chamber as business manager."

During Wednesday's luncheon, Johnathon Shepherd, board chairman for the chamber, recognized Akin and his ongoing contributions to Owasso and the surrounding region.

"Going on 27 years, this man has been a very big proponent of this community," Shepard said. "I want to say a heartfelt thank you for all that you have done for this chamber in Owasso, and we are absolutely excited for the opportunity for you and Fayrene in your next chapter."

Akin shared his sentiments about devoting nearly three decades to leading the chamber of a thriving city that continues to attract new citizens and businesses within its ever-expanding boundaries.

"We've seen the town grow from 5,000 people in 1976 to what we are now (more than 37,000), the 11th largest city in Oklahoma; we're just pleased to have been a part of this," Akin said from the podium. "The future is tomorrow, and I'm excited for what's going to happen."



*Chamber Board & Ambassador Signatures*

