



Media contacts:	Matt Smith , Communications	msmith@iiat.org	512.476.6281
	Marit Peters , IIAT President	mpete@iiat.org	512.476.6281

Wednesday, June 10, 2015

IIAT Names Garry Kaufman Top Insurance Agent in Texas

Galveston agent receives the 2015 Drex Foreman Award

AUSTIN, TX — The Independent Insurance Agents of Texas (IIAT) is proud to announce that Garry Kaufman, president of Galveston Insurance Associates, is the recipient of the Drex Foreman Award presented at IIAT's 118th Annual Conference and Trade Show in San Antonio on June 5. Named after Drex Foreman, who served as the chief executive director of IIAT for more than 30 years, the Drex Foreman Award is the highest honor IIAT bestows annually to an independent agent who has contributed greatly to the independent agency system.

Kaufman began his professional career in the pharmaceutical industry, where he worked for seven years before deciding to join his in-laws' family insurance business, Galveston Insurance Associates, the oldest insurance agency in Galveston. Twenty-one years later, Kaufman has become a respected leader in the industry and has grown his agency by more than 40 employees.

Kaufman is very active in the insurance industry and has served on many boards, councils and committees. In 2008 he was elected chair of IIAT's Board of Directors, and has served as chairman for IIAT's Budget and Finance Committee and IIAT Services Co. Kaufman has also served on the boards of the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association (TWIA), the Insurors Groups, the Insurance Council of Texas Windstorm Committee and United Fire Group's National Agents Advisory Council.

Kaufman's service extends beyond the industry to his community as well. He has served two terms as the chairman of the Galveston Chamber of Commerce. Other boards he's served on in Galveston include the city's Economic Development Partnership, Rotary Club, United Way and Vote Yes for Kids Campaign. He's a past chairman for the city's Seawall Future Enhancement Committee, the Galveston Building Code Committee, and advisory committees for Galveston College. Kaufman received the 2003 IIAT Young Agent of the Year award, the Galveston Chamber of Commerce Community Service and their Business Leadership Awards.

Those who know him at work say he is passionate about his employees and describe him as always willing to go above and beyond for his staff. After Hurricane Ike hit Galveston in 2008, Kaufman worked selflessly to provide for his community and deliver on his promise as an insurance agent to be there for his community in their time of need. He is also a dedicated family man and is the proud father of four children.

"Garry is a role-model and leader for his employees and independent insurance agents across Texas. He is a respected leader in the industry and the community. I can think of no other agent more deserving of this award," said IIAT President Marit Peters.

* * *

About IIAT

The Independent Insurance Agents of Texas (IIAT) is the nation's largest state association of Trusted Choice® agencies. IIAT represents approximately 1,700 agencies and more than 16,000 agents and insurance professionals. Trusted Choice® independent agents represent multiple insurance companies. Since they are not employees of any single insurance company, they are advocates for insurance consumers helping them comparison shop for cost-effective and customized coverage. IIAT is also affiliated with the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America and works with legislative, regulatory and judicial bodies in Texas on behalf of independent insurance agents across the state. More information on IIAT can be found online at iiat.org.