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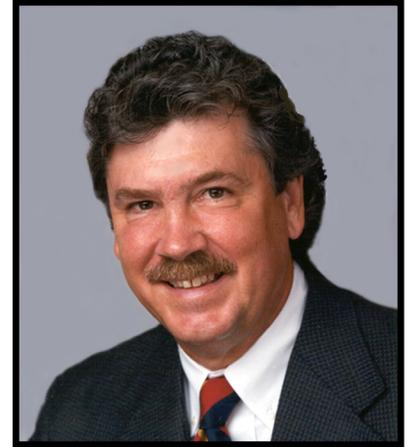
For Immediate Release

Mark Hanna
(512) 326-7616

July 17, 2014

Gentry Honored with Raymond Mauk Award

Rick Gentry, former Executive Director for the Insurance Council of Texas for 17 years, was presented the Raymond Mauk Leadership Award Thursday, July 17, in Austin, at the 22nd Annual Insurance Council of Texas Mid-Year Property and Casualty Symposium. Gentry becomes the seventeenth recipient of the prestigious award.



The Insurance Council of Texas (ICT) presents the Raymond Mauk Leadership Award each year at its Mid-Year Property and Casualty Insurance Symposium. It is the Council's highest honor and is intended to bestow recognition on those whose labor has made a significant difference in the business of insurance.

Gentry was recognized for his leadership role in helping to merge two longtime Texas insurance organizations together to create ICT. Once ICT was established, Gentry began working to build a more cooperative approach within the insurance community. He helped to create and foster a stronger, ongoing relationship between ICT and the Independent Insurance Agents of Texas (IIAT) which remains evident today.

In 1967, Gentry served in the United States Army, where his first assignment took him to Vietnam. He was quickly promoted to infantry squad leader and was subsequently injured while on patrol and was awarded the Purple Heart.

In 1973, shortly after earning a degree in business from the University of Texas at Austin, Gentry was hired as a committee clerk for the Texas House of Representatives. This led to a number of jobs within Texas politics that included working for the Speaker of the House, the Texas Attorney General and Congressman Jake "J.J." Pickle.

Out of politics and prior to ICT, Gentry headed the Austin office of the Insurance Information Institute (III), speaking on behalf of the industry during the era of Governor Ann Richards.

As Executive Director at ICT, Gentry led what became the largest state insurance trade organization in the country and the voice for the Texas insurance industry. His vision led to the creation of ICT's Education Foundation which has raised approximately \$700,000 in scholarships and academic funding for more than 300 insurance and risk management students at nine Texas universities.

About the Award

The Raymond Mauk Award honors former Texas Fire Commissioner Raymond Mauk and annually recognizes someone who has made a notable contribution to the Texas property and casualty insurance industry.

Mauk enjoyed a long and distinguished career and held many positions of leadership within his company and industry organizations.

More than 70 years ago, Commissioner Mauk was convinced that fundamental change was needed to protect the insurance buying public and the integrity of the marketplace from the misapplication of rates and forms.

To accomplish his goal, Mauk envisioned the creation of a central checking office that would enforce good business practices and audit the insurance industry's paperwork for errors and competitive greed. Faced with opposition and a resistance to change, Mauk labored for two years to build support from both agents and companies.

By February 1935, Mauk's leadership had led to the successful establishment of the Texas Insurance Checking Office, an institution, which continues to serve the Texas industry today.

The Insurance Council of Texas is the largest state insurance trade association in the country consisting of approximately 500 property and casualty insurers writing business in Texas.

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