

Contact

For Immediate Release

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## **Ron Cobb Honored with Raymond Mauk Award**

Ron Cobb, counsel to the American Insurance Association (AIA), was presented the Raymond Mauk Leadership Award Thursday, July 18, in Austin, at the 21st Annual Mid-Year Property and Casualty Symposium. Cobb becomes the sixteenth recipient of the prestigious award.

The Insurance Council of Texas (ICT) presents the Raymond Mauk Leadership Award at its Mid-Year Property and Casualty Insurance Symposium each year. 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.

Cobb was recognized for his major role in helping to reform the Texas workers' compensation system, resolving premium and maintenance tax issues and moving the state away from a promulgated rate making system to the more competitive file and use marketplace that has benefited companies, agents and policyholders.

At age 20, Cobb worked as a personal lines underwriter for USF&G. Two years later, he began work at American General, first in personal lines and then became a manager for commercial lines.



*Ron Cobb*

At 26, Cobb was elected president of the Houston Texas Jaycees and in one year, he helped build that organization into one of the nation's largest chapters. Upon taking office, he went to then Houston Mayor Louie Welch and asked what project he could take on that would make the biggest difference. Welch suggested the toughest project that he knew of, was to somehow get fresh water to a small African-American community that was located within one half mile of the Houston Intercontinental Airport. The residents of Bordersville paid city taxes, but didn't even have basic city services. Cobb helped rectify the situation by coordinating a water well drilling project that was recognized nationally as the best Jaycee project of the year.

After graduating from high school, Cobb spent the next 11 years working during the day and at night, attending the University of Houston and eventually graduating from the South Texas School of Law. With his law degree Cobb was named assistant counsel for American General and put in charge of government affairs. It was at this point in his career that he began attending insurance industry meetings in both Austin and Dallas.

In 1976, after spending 12 years with American General, Cobb was hired as regional vice president with the AIA where he assumed responsibility for eight states.

In 2003, Cobb retired as regional vice president and began serving as counsel to AIA and other industry organizations.

## 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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