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Independent Insurance Agents of Texas names Bill Henry 2009 Paige Eiland Award winner

DALLAS, TX – June 17, 2009 – The Independent Insurance Agents of Texas (IIAT) has named Bill Henry, CEO of McQueary Henry Bowles Troy, LLP in Dallas, winner of the Paige Eiland Award for Voluntary Political Action at IIAT's 112th Annual Conference & Trade Show.

In making the presentation IIAT Vice President David Wood said, "Bill Henry is a tireless supporter of independent agents, working at both the state and national level to help legislators better understand the state of the insurance industry in Texas."

As a Regional Vice President for IIAT's IMPACT program, Henry has an impressive track record including raising more than half a million dollars for Texas agent political action programs. He is also one of the largest individual contributors to IMPACT and regularly supports elections at both the state and national level. Most notably, he has worked closely with the Texas Legislature and regulators on improvements of the Workers' Compensation system and reducing the Assigned Risk Pool deficit in Texas.

"Bill Henry's leadership at the political level is unmatched," said IIAT President Garry Kaufman. "He has helped the industry make many positive strides over the years, and we are grateful for his guidance and hard work."

Henry has been active in the insurance industry since 1972, selling and servicing Fortune 1000 accounts for the Texas Employers' Insurance Association, National Accounts division. In 1983, he co-formed McQueary & Henry, Inc. building it from the ground up. Today, McQueary Henry Bowles Troy, LLP is one of the largest privately-owned independent agencies in the country. In addition, he has served four years on Board of Directors for Independent Insurance Agents of Dallas, including several years as an instructor for various courses.

Henry also helped create and develop Signal Mutual, a group self-insurance program for federal workers' compensation. He has also served as an advisory director for Southwestern States Insurance Agency, Inc. and director for Lone Star Insurance Co.

The political action award was named in honor of Paige Eiland, a politically active member of IIAT and a long-serving IMPACT regional vice president. He served on national committees to improve the federal crop insurance program preserving the role of independent agents. Selection is made by an awards committee comprised of IIAT leadership. The award may not be conferred every year and the winner need not be an independent agent.

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About IIAT

The Independent Insurance Agents of Texas (IIAT) is the nation's largest state association of Trusted Choice® agencies. IIAT represents approximately 1,800 agencies and more than 15,000 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.