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Independent Insurance Agents of Texas Presents Leadership Award to Texas House Speaker Joe Straus

AUSTIN — The Independent Insurance Agents of Texas (IIAT) is proud to announce the presentation of its 2010 Independent Leadership Award to Joe Straus, Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives.

“Because we value independence in the insurance market, we seek to recognize those who value this ideal in their professional lives,” said IIAT vice president Bob Shepard of Harlingen. “The Independent Insurance Agents of Texas was founded on the ideal that its members serve as independent and trusted insurance advisors and leaders in their communities. This commitment to leadership has built the largest association of independent agents in the country. We are proud to say that you can find an independent insurance agent at the fork of every creek in Texas.”

Speaker Straus was elected to the House of Representatives in 2005 and served as a House member representing San Antonio and surrounding areas during the 79th and 80th sessions. “In just a short time, his trusted service was acknowledged by the overwhelming support of his peers who elected him as the presiding officer of the House Chamber at the commencement of the 81st legislative session. Although the membership of the House was split almost evenly, with 76 Republicans and 74 Democrats, Speaker Straus gracefully led his peers through the 140-day session and 2-day special session, ultimately passing measures to reduce the tax burden on small businesses in the state and to safe-guard the General Revenue fund from future hurricane losses. His independent and trusted leadership of the Texas House is highly valued and serves as a standard for leadership excellence throughout the independent agent community,” said Shepard.

“I really appreciate the recognition and help and I most sincerely appreciate the working relationship that the House has with your organization,” said Straus. “I’m a businessman myself, in fact, I’m a licensed insurance agent, not property and casualty, but still I get the idea and I know what you all are up against. You have a friendly place to do business in the Capitol with us,” he continued.

The Independent Leadership Award was presented during IIAT’s Joe Vincent Management Seminar, one of the country’s top management seminars for independent insurance agents with an attendance of more than 650.

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About IIAT

The Independent Insurance Agents of Texas (IIAT) is the nation’s largest state associations 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.

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