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Thursday, June 29, 2023

## Don Whitaker of San Antonio Receives 2023 Drex Foreman Award

AUSTIN, TX — The Independent Insurance Agents of Texas (IIAT) is proud to announce that Don Whitaker, president of Whitaker Insurance Associates in San Antonio, was named the 2023 Drex Foreman Award winner at IIAT's annual awards ceremony and business meeting. The ceremony took place on June 23, during IIAT's INSURCON, at the JW Marriot Hill Country San Antonio.

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 individual who has contributed greatly to the independent agency system.

Don Whitaker started Whitaker Insurance Associates in 1982. His journey in the industry is marked by his extensive involvement in various leadership roles within IIAT. Notably, he served as the President of IIAT during the 2013-2014 term, demonstrating his exceptional leadership skills and commitment to the organization's mission.

Throughout his career, Whitaker has assumed crucial responsibilities within IIAT, chairing the Budget and Finance Committee, the IIAT Services Co. Board, and serving on the IMPACT Board of Trustees. Whitaker also served as IIAT's State National Director for the Big "I" until 2022 and has served as a Trusted Choice Board Member, contributing his expertise to promote the principles and values of independent agency businesses. He also sits on the Board for the Big I Reinsurance Company.

Whitaker has also held prominent positions within the insurance community in San Antonio. He served as the President of the Independent Insurance Agents of San Antonio, where he spearheaded initiatives to support local agents and enhance the industry's presence in the region. Moreover, Whitaker also held the position of President of Associated Insurance Agents.

Whitaker's commitment to excellence and passion for the insurance industry have not gone unnoticed. In 1995, he received the esteemed Ben R. Binford award from the San Antonio association, the highest honor bestowed by the organization.

"With his extensive industry involvement, exceptional leadership, and unwavering commitment, Don Whitaker stands as an exemplary figure within the insurance community. IIAT's selection of him as the recipient of the 2023 Drex Foreman Award is a testament to his outstanding contributions and serves as an inspiration to the next generation of insurance professionals," said Gaylon Brown, CEO of TexCap Insurance Services in Dallas, and a former IIAT Chair.

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### About IIAT

The Independent Insurance Agents of Texas (IIAT) expands the value and influence of independent insurance agencies via advocacy, training, business solutions, professional networking, and market resources.

As the largest association of independent agencies in the country—representing more than 1,200 agencies that employ approximately 12,000 Texans—IIAT provides a wide range of products and resources to the insurance industry. Each year, IIAT delivers more than 250 days of education, ongoing legislative and regulatory advocacy, access to new insurance markets, customized business solutions, and answers to thousands of specific questions from across the state (and country).