



NAIFA-Texas Defender Award Recipients

The NAIFA-Texas Defender Award recognizes NAIFA-Texas members each year that have demonstrated commitment to the insurance and financial industry through their participation in advocacy and government relations. Award recipients are NAIFA-Texas members in good standing that meet a minimum of 4 or more of the required eligibility criteria. This award is given based on individual merit, rather than peer recommendation. Individual member qualifications are confirmed by the NAIFA-Texas Awards Committee and staff. Recipients are recognized in-person at the NAIFA-Texas Annual State Conference.

Eligibility criteria include NAIFA-Texas members' individual IFAPAC contributions, participation in events held by NAIFA-Texas and NAIFA National, engagement with State and Federal Legislators, Grassroots connections, and advocacy involvement. To view the official list of eligibility criteria, please visit: <https://tx.naifa.org/awards>.

This award was first presented by NAIFA-Texas at the 2025 NAIFA-Texas Centennial State Conference and was awarded to existing NAIFA-Texas members that currently meet or have previously met the eligibility criteria during their tenure with the Association.

****Any NAIFA-Texas members that has met the [NAIFA-Texas Defender Award Eligibility Criteria](#) but is not included in the list below, please contact the NAIFA-Texas office by emailing support@naifa-texas.org to be recognized.****

NAIFA-Texas Defender Recipients

Qualification Year	Member First Name	Member Last Name	Local Chapter/Affiliate
2025	Lane	Boozer	NAIFA Dallas
2025	Dee	Carter	NAIFA Central Texas
2025	Thomas	Currey	NAIFA Fort Worth
2025	Rick	Demko	NAIFA Houston
2025	Karen	Easterling	NAIFA Austin
2025	Stephen	Ehlers	NAIFA Houston
2025	Hollie	Gandy Donohue	NAIFA Amarillo Area
2025	Andra	Grava	NAIFA Dallas
2025	Alyson	Guest	NAIFA Houston
2025	Chris	Hatton	NAIFA Dallas
2025	T. Leslie	Littleton	NAIFA Pineywoods of East Texas
2025	Douglas	Massey	NAIFA Central Texas
2025	Charles	Matejowsky	NAIFA Houston
2025	Rodney	Mogen	NAIFA Austin
2025	John	Norman	NAIFA Dallas
2025	Danny	O'Connell	NAIFA Dallas
2025	Joseph	Orr	NAIFA El Paso
2025	Randy	Robertson	NAIFA Dallas
2025	John M.	Ruckel	NAIFA Pineywoods of East Texas
2025	Ray	Soto	NAIFA Houston



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2025	Jason	Talley	NAIFA San Antonio
2025	Michelle	Talley	NAIFA San Antonio
2025	James	Thompson	NAIFA Amarillo Area
2025	Joey	Ussery	NAIFA Houston
2025	Mark	Warren	NAIFA Amarillo Area
2025	John	Wheeler, Jr.	NAIFA Houston
2026	Michael	Aguirre	NAIFA San Antonio
2026	Dereck	Blair	NAIFA Amarillo Area
2026	Ian	Escalante	NAIFA El Paso
2026	Michael	Evans	NAIFA Dallas
2026	David	Farabee	NAIFA Northwest Texas
2026	Keith	Forster	NAIFA San Antonio
2026	Joseph	Hernandez	NAIFA South Texas
2026	Mark	Olson	NAIFA Austin
2026	Lesley	Pinckard	NAIFA Fort Worth
2026	Ruth	Shannon	NAIFA Dallas
2026	Derek	True	NAIFA Dallas
2026	Karen	True	NAIFA Dallas
2026	David	Webb	NAIFA Pineywoods of East Texas