



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 1, 2025

Press Contact:

Kelly Loussedes, SVP Public Relations

kloussedes@nabip.org or 202.595.3074

James R. Stenger Receives NABIP's Highest Honor

Harold R. Gordon Memorial Award Recognizes Industry's Person of the Year

(Miami, FL) — The National Association of Benefits and Insurance Professionals (NABIP) proudly presented the 2025 Harold R. Gordon Memorial Award to James R. Stenger at the Gordon Awards Gala on June 30 in Miami, Florida, during NABIP's 95th Annual Convention. The award—NABIP's highest honor—is presented annually to the health insurance industry's "Person of the Year" and recognizes exceptional service and leadership.

A respected and influential figure in the health benefits profession, Jim Stenger has dedicated more than three decades to strengthening the industry and advocating for access to affordable, high-quality healthcare. His service has had a meaningful and lasting impact at the local, state, and national levels of the association.

Jim began his journey in 1992 during a time of major health insurance reform in New Jersey. Recognizing the importance of broker representation, he became an early and vocal for the agent community. He went on to serve as President of the New Jersey chapter, and National President of NAHU (now NABIP) in 2015–2016.

"Jim represents everything this award was created to celebrate—visionary leadership, relentless advocacy, and a deep and lasting impact on both the industry and the people in it," said David Mordo, Chair of the Gordon Award Selection Committee. "His work has transformed the association and strengthened our profession for future generations."

Among his many contributions, Jim chaired the New Jersey Small Group Health Benefits Board for ten years, helping shape policy to support small businesses across the state. He has also played key national roles on the HUPAC board, as Region 2 Vice President, and as Governance Committee Chair. As the driving force behind NABIP's "Vision 2020" strategic plan, Jim helped modernize governance structures, clarify staff and board roles, and led the successful rebranding of the association's magazine to *America's Benefit Specialist*.

"Jim Stenger has been a pillar of leadership, service, and mentorship in our industry for decades," said NABIP CEO Jessica Brooks-Woods. "His strategic mind, compassionate heart, and tireless dedication have shaped the very fabric of our association. Jim is the kind of leader who lifts others up and leads with quiet strength."

Jim's reputation is equally defined by his humility and dedication to mentoring others. He has traveled extensively to support NABIP chapters and inspire members, always focused on strengthening relationships and lifting others. His service to his community is equally impressive—supporting underprivileged youth, local food banks, and infrastructure revitalization efforts, including as Commodore of the St. Charles Yacht Club.

Over the years, Jim has received numerous accolades, including the Louis G. Mattei Achievement Award and the NAHU Distinguished Service Award. The 2025 Harold R. Gordon Memorial Award celebrates his enduring legacy—a visionary leader and trusted mentor whose example continues to inspire professionals across the country.

###