

Harold R. Gordon Memorial Award Nomination
Shirley Hutzler

The Harold R. Gordon Award is given to members of our industry who have excelled in their leadership and contributions to the health insurance profession. In her decades of service, Shirley Hutzler exemplified the characteristics of service and dedication that reflect the best our profession has to offer. However Shirley was taken away from us all way too soon. Shirley was a gifted lady, a great communicator and leader but also a great listener. She is deeply missed by everyone who knew her.

Shirley Hutzler began her health insurance career in 1973. Earning her Group 1 license in 1979, her insurance career spanned more than 30 years as a brokerage manager, TAHU & NAHU leader and ultimately as the TAHU's Lobbyist and legislative advisor. Her outstanding and professional accomplishments have been recognized through numerous awards and accolades. Shirley served as President of Austin AHU (1990-1991) and President of TAHU from 1992-1993. Shirley has been named: TAHU Volunteer of the Year, TAHU Outstanding Texan and recipient of TAHU's highest award the Hollis Roberson Award. Her home chapter Austin AHU, designated their highest honor as the AAHU Shirley Hutzler Award. In recognition of Shirley's outstanding legislative accomplishments, TAHU designated it's most prestigious legislative honor as the Hutzler Excellence in Legislation Award. But Shirley's association efforts on behalf of our profession were not limited to the State of Texas, they extended nationally into NAHU.

Shirley Hutzler served as NAHU Region IV Vice President for 1993-1995. She was honored by NAHU, receiving the Distinguished Service Award on three different occasions. Shirley was also the recipient of the NAHU Landmark Award for Texas. She was equally at ease walking the familiar hallways of the Texas State Capitol, or attending a "Black tie" formal dinner in Washington, D.C.

Once upon receiving a TAHU award, Shirley's comments indicated the true passion and humility she held for our profession, "It is incredible to be recognized and honored for doing something I love so much". Shirley Hutzler was totally and selflessly dedicated to NAHU & TAHU, with her ultimate objective being to benefit the individual member. A gifted mentor, with the heart of a fearless champion, always ready to tackle any problem and resolve it to conclusion. People like Shirley, are the bedrock of our association. Shirley Hutzler is highly deserving of receiving the Harold R. Gordon Award posthumously.


Ronald S. Buffum
TAHU President, 2008-2009
TAHU Trustee Emeritus