

# CHARTER OAK

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## Insurance and Financial Services Co.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Charter Oak General Agent Pete Novak Honored with Industry Award of Excellence**

**Holyoke, MA**—Peter S. Novak, General Agent of **Charter Oak Insurance and Financial Services Co.**, has been awarded with GAMA International's James H. Kreuger First in Class Award for his excellence in leading the agency. Novak received the honor at GAMA's Leadership and Management (LAMP) conference on March 22.

Charter Oak is ranked first among the agencies of Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company (MassMutual) for overall performance. Under Novak's leadership, Charter Oak's accomplishments have earned the agency five MassMutual Gold Bowls and ten Chairman's Trophies, as well as a consistent presence of its agents at MassMutual's various recognition conferences.

Charter Oak is one of the largest agencies of Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company (MassMutual), with nearly 200 representatives.

Ed Youmell, MassMutual Agency Vice President, said: "To be successful in our business, you need to be able to adapt to an ever-changing landscape, and you need to be focused on growing your organization. Within the MassMutual system, there is no better example of this than Pete Novak."

John Vacarro, MassMutual Senior Vice President, added: "MassMutual congratulates Pete Novak and the entire Hartford/Springfield Agency on a tremendous 2009. Charter Oak Insurance and Financial Services continues to be one of the premiere MassMutual Agencies and we are proud of our longstanding relationship."

Novak commented: "It's a true honor to accept this award from a respected organization like GAMA, among my industry peers. We're all working toward elevating the financial services profession to its rightful place as a positive fixture in our communities. I'm proud to be part of that movement."

Novak is a 25-year veteran of the insurance and financial services industry, having served as general agent to MassMutual's Rochester agency; co-general agent at The New England/Robinson Co. in Waterbury, Connecticut; and as an agent at the New York Life Insurance Company. Before entering the financial services world, he coached college basketball for over seven years, and worked as a social worker in his hometown of New Haven, Connecticut, where Charter Oak also has offices.

In 2005, GAMA's Board of Directors named the First in Class Award to honor its 55th president, James H. Kreuger, and his many years of service to an industry he loved.

*Charter Oak Insurance and Financial Services Co. is a general agency of Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company (MassMutual) and serves the risk management, business services and retirement and investment planning needs of more than 70,000 clients throughout the northeast. With offices in Boston, Farmington, Holyoke, New Haven, Southbury and Stamford, Charter Oak considers helping others the heart of its business and is proud to support many philanthropic organizations in all of the markets it serves. To learn more, visit [www.charteroakinsurance.com](http://www.charteroakinsurance.com).*

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