



## AMERICAN ACADEMY *of* ACTUARIES

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### NEWS RELEASE

May 17, 2002

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### Becker Honored by Academy

#### Former Texas Insurance Department Actuary Receives Award

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The American Academy of Actuaries honored Ted Becker, former chief life actuary at the Texas Department of Insurance, with the 2002 Robert J. Myers Public Service Award. Becker attended the Academy's Washington Forum, which was held at the Mayflower Hotel in the nation's capital this week.

**"Ted is the epitome of professionalism, confidence, and collegiality,"** said Academy president, Daniel J. McCarthy. While accepting the award, Becker said this was a great opportunity to see old friends and to meet Bob Myers. **"He unconsciously helped me in making the decision to pursue this profession,"** Becker said. Many years ago, Becker read an article in a magazine that was written by Myers and it inspired him to become an actuary.

The public service award is presented annually during the Academy's Washington Luncheon to an actuary who has made a noteworthy contribution to the public. It is named for Robert J. Myers, former chief actuary of the Social Security Administration from 1947 to 1970, and a past president of the Academy, who also was present at the presentation.

Becker served as the chief actuary with the Texas Department of Insurance for more than 20 years and was involved in many major life and health actuarial projects affecting state regulation of insurance. He also served as National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) secretary and as a member of its Life and Health Actuarial Task Force. McCarthy added that the circle was now complete in honoring those actuaries making major contributions on the task force. Becker joins two other recipients, Robert J. Callahan, and the late John O. Montgomery, who both served on the NAIC task force during that time.

Becker is credited with creating an actuarial method in use today, which is related to term life insurance. Called the "Becker Method," it became the precursor of the NAIC model rule known as XXX. The retired Austin resident now travels the globe seeking new places to explore and new people to meet.

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The American Academy of Actuaries is the nonpartisan public policy organization for the U.S. actuarial profession. The Academy provides independent analysis to elected officials and regulators, maintains professional standards for all actuaries, and communicates the value of actuarial work to the media and public.