

NEWS RELEASE



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Grocers Recognize Martin as 2017 Outstanding Grocer

St. Paul, MN – August 3, 2017 – Paul Martin, owner of Willie’s Super Valu in Morris, MN was honored by the Minnesota Grocers Association (MGA) with its 2017 Outstanding Grocer Award. This award is presented annually to a grocer who has successfully developed a company and is respected by industry peers. Additionally, the recipient must demonstrate contributions to the industry in the areas of government affairs, community service, and involvement in the MGA. The award was presented on July 30, 2017 at the MGA Annual Conference which was attended by over 350 members of the Minnesota food industry.

As the son of the owners of Willie’s Red Owl he grew up in the business helping out where he could and working after school. Martin entered the supermarket management program at Dakota County Technical College. He worked at the Apple Valley Applebaum’s and Burnsville Cub Foods stores where he gained additional industry experience. He graduated from DCTC and returned to the family business. He bought the store from his dad in 1990 and built a new one in 1999 that’s nearly twice as large. The new store provided customers more of what they wanted: larger departments, full-service meat, bakery and deli, more ready-to-eat food.

Martin is a dedicated member of the MGA and numerous groups in his community. He has been a member of the area Kiwanis Club for 25 years and served two terms as its president. Martin works with the local Sportsmen Club and Pheasant Forever chapters and currently serves on the board of the area hospital. Martin has been a Sunday school teacher at his church, as well as its treasurer.

Martin and his wife Gina live in Morris and have three sons and one grandchild.

Martin’s entrepreneurial spirit exemplifies what it means to be a grocer. His pursuit of excellence makes him a role model for his peers and is why he was chosen as the 2017 MGA Outstanding Grocer.

The MGA is a state trade association representing the food industry since 1897. We have over 200 retail members with nearly 1,100 stores statewide, as well as approximately 100 distributors and manufacturers. Our member companies employ over 125,000 union and non-union Minnesotans. We actively advance the common interest of all those engaged in any aspect of the food industry as a leader and advocate in government affairs.

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