



## **McKnight's Announces 3rd Annual Pinnacle Awards Winners**



*McKnight's, December 09, 2024*

Thirty-two top flight long-term care leaders have been named winners in the 2025 *McKnight's* Pinnacle Awards program, organizers announced Tuesday.

An independent national panel of long-term care leaders chose the outstanding sector veterans, who are being recognized for driving change, setting new standards and inspiring others for at least the last 20 years. Nominations were made by peers and colleagues.

Some of the nation's most successful leaders in home care, skilled nursing and senior living are featured on the list. Honorees include veteran administrators, clinicians, caregivers, researchers and others from both for-profit and nonprofit entities.

"In many ways, this may be the most impressive field of winners yet," said *McKnight's* Publisher Craig Roth in announcing the honorees. "The competition was extremely close in most of the categories. It's a shame we couldn't have named each entrant a winner because, in truth, they've all been helping everyone around them 'win' at work for years."

The Pinnacle Awards are a joint effort of *McKnight's Home Care* and sister media brands *McKnight's Long-Term Care News* and *McKnight's Senior Living*.

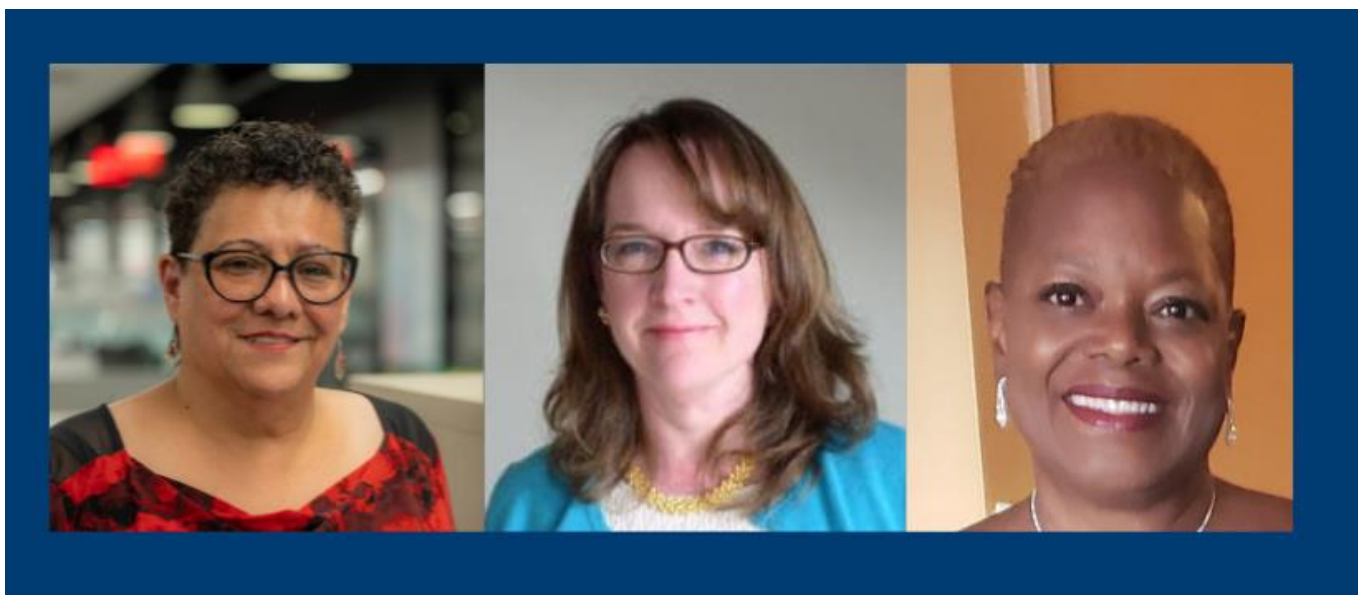
Winners will be celebrated March 20 at a gala awards ceremony at the iconic Ivy Room in Chicago. The event is open to all friends, family, colleagues and supporters who may find [ticket information here](#).

Program organizers in January will announce a Career Achievement Award winner, who also will be feted at the March ceremony. Last year, the career honoree was Mark Parkinson, who at the time was the president and CEO of the American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living. He was preceded by Robert J. Kramer, co-founder and former CEO of the National Investment Center for Seniors Housing & Care, and currently a co-founder and fellow with Nexus Insights.

Please check the program website at [mcknightspinnacleawards.com](http://mcknightspinnacleawards.com) for a gallery of winners and more information about the *McKnight's* Pinnacle Awards, including details about the awards ceremony and reception.

Coverage of the sector's most venerated independent awards program will appear both online and in print.

### **The 2025 *McKnight's* Pinnacle Awards winners are:**



#### **Setting the Standard Award**

**Winifred "Winnie" Allen**, Resident Aide/Caregiver, Life Enriching Communities

**Robert Amoloria**, Chief Nursing Officer, Legacy Healthcare

**Shirley Cort**, Resident Aide/Caregiver, Life Enriching Communities

**Nancy Kao**, Executive Director, The Forum at Rancho San Antonio

**Grace McGhee**, Care Management Director, Health Plans, VNS Health

#### **Thought Leader Award**

**Rosa Baier, MPH**, Director, Center for Long-Term Quality and Innovation, Brown University

**Margaret McDonald**, AVP, The Center for Home Care Policy and Research, VNS Health

**Michael Rosenblut**, President and CEO, Parker Jewish Institute for Health Care and Rehabilitation

**Fee Stubblefield**, Founder and CEO, The Springs Living

**Terry Walsh**, President and CEO, Friendship Village

**John Zeisel, PhD**, Founder and Board Member, I'm Still Here Foundation

#### **Unsung Hero Award**

**Betty Barajas**, Senior Director of Revenue Cycle, Beecan Health

**Carol Burt**, Residential Planning Administrator, Parker Health Group  
**Nancy Hooks**, Senior Vice President, Member and State Partnerships, LeadingAge  
**Rosa Marcus**, Director of Support Services, Personal Care, VNS Health

### **Agent of Change Award**

**Donald F. Breneman**, Chief Operating Officer, Juniper Communities  
**David Gehm**, President and CEO, Wellspring Lutheran Services  
**Freda Mowad**, CEO, Quality Rehab Management  
**PJ Sanford**, President, PACS Services  
**Jill Vitale-Aussem**, President and CEO, Christian Living Communities

### **Industry Ally Award**

**William Dombi**, President Emeritus, National Alliance for Care at Home  
**David Gifford, MD, MPH**, Chief Medical Officer, American Health Care Association/National Center for Assisted Living  
**John O'Connor**, Vice President/Associate Publisher/Editorial Director, *McKnight's*/Haymarket Media  
**Katie Smith Sloan**, President and CEO, LeadingAge

### **Inspiration Award**

**Debby Jackson**, Hospice Admissions Nurse, Hospice in the Pines  
**Rhonda Sanders-Simmonds**, Chief Customer Experience Officer, Trilogy Health Services  
**Robert Siebel**, President and CEO, Carriage Health Care

### **Marketplace Influencer Award**

**James Cohen**, CEO and Co-Founder, Nevvon  
**Brad Mariam**, Executive Vice President of Sales, Medline Industries  
**Maureen McCarthy**, President and CEO, Celtic Consulting  
**Tammy Ross**, Executive Vice President of Professional Services, Axxess  
**Ted Tzirimis**, CEO, Intrex

***The McKnight's family of brands brings the most up-to-date news in home care to industry insiders. The brand covers the segments of in-home personal care, home health, hospice and palliative care. Readers are leaders in their respective organizations, ranging from owners and executives to clinical directors and other stakeholders. Content reaches an audience of 79,000, and focuses on news, trends affecting management decisions, personnel operations, patient care services, legal issues, facility design and resident safety. Features include updates on pharmacy service, legislation affecting the industry and vendor/product news.***