



PRESS RELEASE

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Iowa Taxpayers Association (ITA)

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Ambassador Terry Branstad Receives the 2021 Iowa Taxpayers Association's Weindruch Award

DES MOINES, IA — (November 29, 2021) The Iowa Taxpayers Association, the state's leading nonpartisan business tax policy resource since 1935, in conjunction with the family of Linda S. Weindruch is pleased to announce that Ambassador Terry Branstad, former governor of Iowa and Founding Partners, Branstad Churchill Group, has been chosen as the recipient of the 2021 Linda S. Weindruch Award. This prestigious award will be presented to Branstad at ITA's 86th Annual Tax Symposium at The Meadows Events and Conference Center at Prairie Meadows on December 2, 2021.

The purpose of this award is to recognize outstanding accomplishments and contributions in promoting and protecting the principles and policies of fair business taxation. The Iowa Taxpayers Association offers this award in memory and in recognition of Linda S. Weindruch, who passed away after a long battle with multiple sclerosis in October 2004. Weindruch was an active, longtime member of the Iowa Taxpayers Association. She was elected to serve on its board of directors in 1994 and served 10 active years. A tremendous friend of Iowa business, Weindruch worked diligently to develop and shape legislative and regulatory policy that supported sound taxation principles.

"On behalf of the Iowa Taxpayers Association, I am pleased to announce that former Governor Terry E. Branstad has been selected as the recipient of the 2021 Linda S. Weindruch Award in recognition of his outstanding efforts in support of fair business taxation and accountable government. During his long tenure in office, Governor Branstad's commitment to accountable government and sound budgeting principles eliminated deficits, led to balanced budgets and eventually produced surplus revenues. Governor Branstad promoted and achieved unprecedented tax reforms for the benefit of Iowa taxpayers throughout his six terms. Included among the many tax reform measures signed by the governor were the Iowa Taxpayer Bill of Rights in 1993, across-the-board income tax cuts and indexing of income tax brackets in 1998, a sweeping overhaul of Iowa's property tax laws in 2013, and significant changes to sales and use taxation of Iowa manufacturers in 2016. ITA is proud to honor and recognize Governor Branstad for these outstanding accomplishments," said Bruce Baker, Nyemaster Goode, P.C., Linda S. Weindruch Award Committee chair.

Terry E. Branstad is the former U.S. Ambassador to China and the longest serving governor in American history.

A native of Leland, Iowa, Branstad was elected three times to the Iowa House of Representatives, as Iowa's lieutenant governor in 1978, and as Iowa's youngest governor in 1983. As the state's chief executive and longest serving governor from 1983 to 1999, Governor Branstad weathered some of Iowa's worst economic turmoil during the farm crisis of the 1980s, while helping lead the state's resurgence to a booming economy in the 1990s.

At the end of his tenure, Iowa enjoyed record employment, an unprecedented \$900 million budget surplus, and the enactment of historic government overhauls that led to greater efficiencies in state government. As a result of Governor Branstad's hands-on, round-the clock approach to economic development, Iowa's unemployment rate went from 8.5 percent when he took office to a record low 2.5 percent when he left office in 1999.

Following his four terms as governor, Branstad served as president of Des Moines University (DMU). During his 6-year tenure, he was able to grow the university into a world-class educational facility and send its graduates to offer health care in all 50 U.S. states while also becoming the first college in the U.S. to receive the Platinum Level of Recognition from the Wellness Council of America.

In October of 2009, sensing a need for change in the way state government operates and wanting to "lead Iowa's comeback," Branstad retired from DMU and was re-elected governor in 2010.

During his second tenure as Iowa governor from 2010 to 2017, Governor Branstad signed historic investments in Iowa's infrastructure into law, including Iowa's roads and bridges, as well as the innovative Connect Every Acre Plan that expanded high-speed broadband internet to Iowa's agriculture industry, schools, businesses and homes.

On December 7, 2016, Governor Branstad announced that he had accepted the nomination from President-elect Donald Trump to serve as Ambassador of the United States to the People's Republic of China. He was sworn in as Ambassador on May 24, 2017.

Ambassador Branstad served as U.S. Ambassador to China during one of the most challenging periods in recent U.S.-China history since the two countries re-established diplomatic relations in 1979. Under his leadership during unprecedented crises including the COVID-19 outbreak and the Chinese government's closure of the U.S. Consulate in Chengdu, Ambassador Branstad led the largest drawdown of a single diplomatic mission in U.S. State Department history while evacuating over 1,300 staff members from China. He also created the Personal Protective Equipment for America Taskforce, which delivered 5,000 tons of urgently needed medical supplies to the U.S. to combat COVID-19.

During his tenure, Ambassador Branstad's two greatest achievements were the signing of the historic Phase One Trade Agreement between the U.S. and China in January of 2020 and successfully lobbying the Chinese government to stem the flow of fentanyl into America. The Phase One Trade deal secured \$200 billion in Chinese commitments to purchase U.S. goods and services in the agriculture, manufacturing, energy, and other sectors, achieved stricter enforcement of Intellectual Property protections, and opened up China's restrictive financial sector to U.S. banks and other financial services companies. Moreover, the Chinese



government's decision to schedule fentanyl as a controlled substance in May of 2019 virtually stopped fentanyl shipments into the U.S., saving thousands of American lives.

In addition to serving as U.S. Ambassador, Branstad has also served as the Co-Chair of the Council of Governors appointed by President Barack Obama, as Commissioner and Chairman respectively of the White House Fellows Program and Commission for Excellence in Special Education appointed by President George W. Bush, and as Trustee of the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation appointed by President Ronald Reagan.

Branstad received a B.A. from The University of Iowa and a J.D. from Drake University Law School. Of the many factors behind his continued success in politics, academia, and the nonprofit and corporate board worlds, Ambassador Branstad has always stuck to one personal mantra he often repeats, "Tough times never last, but tough people do."

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Ambassador Terry Branstad



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The Iowa Taxpayers Association (ITA) is a business-sponsored tax policy organization founded in 1935. The ITA mission is to educate and inform Iowans about sound fiscal policy; provide state policymakers with objective, nonpartisan research about the impact of specific tax and spending policies; and advocate for the adoption of rational public fiscal policy as it relates to business taxes.