

# NEWS RELEASE



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Minnesota Grocers Association Presents Industry Ambassador Award**

St. Paul, MN. – April 22, 2024 – The Minnesota Grocers Association (MGA) presented the Industry Ambassador Award to Donald Erickson of Grocery Store Fanatics. It was awarded on Tuesday, April 16 at the MGA Champions Luncheon at the Omni Viking Lakes Hotel, Eagan, MN. The MGA Champions Luncheon showcases from, farm to fork, the Minnesota food industry’s positive impact on our communities. The afternoon highlighted the pride and tremendous accomplishments of those engaged in all aspects of the Minnesota food industry.

The Industry Ambassador Award is presented to an individual who goes above and beyond to elevate the grocery industry. They utilize their voice to capture what is great about the grocery business, its workforce, its products, and the passion within it. Ericson is the co-founder of the 2015 Facebook Public Group ‘Grocery Store Fanatics’ and embodies all that is great within the grocery industry.

“The MGA is so proud to recognize the dedication and passion of Donald,” said Jamie Pfuhl, MGA President. “Donald has enthusiasm for all things grocery. He and his dear friend, Liz Nerud, visit stores daily and bring their welcoming smiles and ever-present joy wherever they go.”

In accepting his award, Ericson used his joyous spirit to raise awareness for autism. He noted that April is Autism Speak’s National Autism Awareness Month and encouraged attendees to embrace individuals with autism. He stated that this award demonstrates how people with autism should be championed and celebrated.

MGA President Jamie Pfuhl and MGA Board Chair Chris Quisberg of S & R Quisberg, Inc. presented the award on behalf of the Minnesota Grocers Association. Donald Erickson received a commemorative plaque in an awards ceremony at the MGA Champions Luncheon.

*The Minnesota Grocers Association (MGA) is the only state trade association that represents the food industry of Minnesota from farm to fork. We are a legacy organization, having served the industry for over 125 years. We have over 300 retail, manufacturer, and wholesale members supporting nearly 1,300 locations statewide. Our member companies employ over 150,000 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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Photo 1: Donald Erickson is presented with the Industry Ambassador Award (with Liz Nerud) by Chris Quisberg of S & R Quisberg, Inc., MGA Board Chair, and Jamie Pfuhl, President, Minnesota Grocers Association.