



NEWS RELEASE

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HCAOA Names 50-Year Veteran 2020 Caregiver of the Year *Chicago's Karen Butler of Custom Home Care Recognized at Virtual Conference*

October 8, 2020 (WASHINGTON, DC) – Karen Butler, a caregiver with Custom Home Care in Chicago, Illinois, was named 2020 Caregiver of the Year by the Home Care Association of America. Butler was selected from more than 200 nominees, and was recognized as the top caregiver in the country during HCAOA's Virtual Conference.

“As we've known for a while now, the right caregivers allow for seniors to truly live out their advanced years with grace, dignity and joy,” said Vicki Hoak, HCAOA Executive Director. “We were blessed to receive more submissions for Caregiver of the Year than in any previous year, and even with all of the great nominations, Karen was the clear winner. We're delighted to be able to recognize her exemplary service, not just this year but for the many years she has served her community.”

Butler has dedicated her life and career to caring for others. A caregiver for more than 50 years and a CNA for more than 35 years, she was nominated because of her gift for making her clients feel special. In her nomination of Butler, Custom Home Care Executive Director Jennifer Avila said, “She understands that the small things matter in the lives of her senior clients. A current client loves to play BINGO, and when she wins, Karen substitutes the candy given out as a prize for sugar free candy to keep her blood sugar in check. Butler goes the extra mile for her clients whether shopping for them, communicating with them and their families, keeping her supervisor informed of any issues, or sharing a joke and a smile.”

“Karen has changed so many lives, and she has made our company a truly special place,” said Tamara Jackson, CEO of Custom Home Care. “We're proud that she is receiving this richly deserved recognition.”

Butler was one of six finalists for the award. Other finalists include:

- Erin Bufford, an aide with Bayada Home Health in Pennsylvania
- Declan Quick, a caregiver with Family Resource Home Care in Washington State
- Ajibola Ola, a caregiver with Lifesprk in Minnesota
- Emily Bressette, a caregiver with Home Instead Senior Care in Ohio
- Michelle Michael, and aide with Bayada Home Health in North Carolina

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IMAGE: Karen Butler, 2020 Caregiver of the Year, https://www.hcaoa.org/assets/1/6/IMG_0324.jpeg

ABOUT HCAOA

Founded in 2002, the Home Care Association of America (HCAOA) is the industry's leading trade association – currently representing nearly 3,000 companies that employ more than 500,000 caregivers across the United States. HCAOA serves as the home care industry's unified voice.