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## **NH Association of Counties Celebrates 50th Anniversary and Record-Breaking Awards Ceremony**

**Concord, NH** — The New Hampshire Association of Counties (NHAC) proudly celebrated its 50th Anniversary this month, marking five decades of service, collaboration, and advocacy on behalf of New Hampshire's ten counties. This milestone was highlighted by the Association's annual awards ceremony, which this year featured over **45 award winners** — the highest number ever presented by NHAC.

"Fifty years ago, NHAC was formed to unify the voice of county government across the state," said NHAC President Cathy Stacey. "This year, not only are we reflecting on that legacy, but we are celebrating the outstanding leaders who continue to advance county priorities and public service in New Hampshire."

Among this year's prestigious award recipients:

- **Senator David Rochefort** and **Representative John Hunt** were each named **Legislator of the Year** for their unwavering support of counties during the most recent legislative session. Both lawmakers played pivotal roles in championing initiatives that directly impacted local government services, infrastructure, and fiscal responsibility.
- **Charles Nickerson**, Finance Director of **Rockingham County**, was honored with the **Profile in Service Award** for his instrumental work on the state budget, ensuring that county needs were addressed in a balanced and sustainable way.
- **Christopher Coates**, County Administrator for **Cheshire County**, received the **Edna McKenna Public Service Award**, a recognition of his steadfast commitment to transparent, effective county governance.
- **David Ferdette**, **Hillsborough County Treasurer**, was named this year's recipient of the **Ray Burton Community Service Award** for his long-standing dedication to civic engagement and service to communities across the state.
- **A complete list of award winners** can be found on the NHAC's conference website: <https://www.nhcounties.org/annual-conference>

"This record number of awardees reflects the strength and diversity of leadership we see at every level of county government," said Stacey. "As we look to the next 50 years, we're proud to stand beside so many public servants who embody the spirit of collaboration, innovation, and integrity."

The NH Association of Counties extends its sincere congratulations to all honorees and thanks its members, partners, and legislative allies for their continued dedication to strengthening New Hampshire's counties and communities.