



German American
Chambers of Commerce
Deutsch-Amerikanische
Handelskammern

German American Chamber of Commerce
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Press Release

For immediate release

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W. David Braun to receive “Niels Friedrichs Legacy Award” for leadership in the German-American business community

Chicago, IL, September 28, 2016 - The German American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest (GACC Midwest) is proud to honor Chairman W. David Braun, Partner at Quarles & Brady, with the Niels Friedrichs Legacy Award for his loyalty, leadership and longstanding dedication to the German-American business community in the Midwest and beyond. Mr. Braun will receive the award at our prestigious GACC Awards Gala, a nationwide celebration of excellence in German-American business, at the Intercontinental Hotel in Chicago on October 28.

The award recognizes the extraordinary contributions and unparalleled service of individuals to our organization. Under Mr. Braun's guidance, GACC Midwest saw continuous growth of the organization through the introduction of many progressive initiatives, such as bringing German-style dual apprenticeship programs to the United States. His guidance has also led to the continued growth of the beloved Christkindlmarket in Chicago, including the newest location opening this winter in Naperville.

Mr. Braun joined GACC Midwest's Board of Directors in 2000, becoming Chairman in 2003. In 2013, he was elected as the inaugural Chairman of the Board of the German American Chambers of Commerce (GACCs), comprising seven offices in the US. He currently serves as the Vice Chairman of the GACCs. He has dedicated his professional and personal life to German-American relations. In his role with Quarles & Brady, he has advised numerous German companies and contributed to their success in the US, focusing primarily on classic German “Mittelstand” companies – i.e. mid-sized, often family-owned, companies that form the backbone of German business. In his tenure as Chairman, every significant metric of Chamber success has improved, including number of members, number of events and networking opportunities, staff size of GACC Midwest, number of German companies using GACC Midwest services to expand their US presence, and many more.

On behalf of the entire German-American business community, we would like to thank Mr. Braun and Quarles & Brady for their longstanding support as he will step down as GACC Midwest's Chairman in 2017. Through Mr. Braun's unwavering dedication to our success, GACC Midwest is well-positioned for the future as a strong and continuously growing driver of German-American business relations.

The award is named after the Chamber's first Managing Director of over thirty years, Niels Friedrichs. Mr. Friedrichs served our organization and the German-American business community with honor and dignity and had such an impact he became known as “Herr Chicago”. W. David Braun is the second recipient after former President & CEO of GACC Midwest, Simone Pohl, who received the award in 2015.



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ABOUT US

The German American Chamber of Commerce® of the Midwest (GACC Midwest), headquartered in Chicago with a branch office in Detroit, was founded in 1963. GACC Midwest is an integral part of the network of German Chambers of Commerce Abroad (AHKs) with 130 offices in 90 countries around the globe. Our continuing mission is to assist in the expansion of bilateral trade and investment between Germany and the United States, especially the Midwest. Our organization combines elements of a trade commission, a membership association, and a professional consultancy.

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