



Legends *Awards*



2025 LEGENDS AWARDS DINNER



Thursday, August 21, 2025
THE ENCORE BOSTON HARBOR HOTEL & CASINO



Jack Sullivan
Award 2025



National Energy & Fuels Institute





Honoring the 2025 NEFI Legends and Honorees

This year's NEFI award recipients represent the very best of our industry.

**Eric
Slifka**

**Kevin
Beckett**

**Rich
Goldberg**

**Dr. Thomas
Butcher**

**Peter
Aziz**

**Charlie
Ugletto**



Each of you has made a lasting impact through your leadership, commitment and vision.

We're proud to celebrate your achievements, your example and the way you continue to move this industry forward.

Hats off to all of you!

**From your friends at Richmond Financial, Hedge
Solutions & Cetane Associates.**





2025 HONOREES



Peter Aziz

President & CEO, Valiant Energy Solutions

Kevin Beckett

President & CEO, R.W. Beckett Corporation

Dr. Thomas A. Butcher

Director, NORA Laboratory

Richard Goldberg

President, Warm Thoughts Communications

Eric Slifka

President & CEO, Global Companies, LLC



Jack Sullivan
Award

Charlie Uglietto

Owner, Cubby Oil & Energy



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Ted Noonan

To the 2025 NEFI Honorees,

Warmest congratulations on being recognized at this year's Heat Show. This is a truly well-deserved honor!

Your incredible leadership and numerous contributions to the liquid fuels industry have made a significant and lasting impact. When I look at the group this year, I can't help but think about how lucky we are as an industry to have dedicated, forward-thinking leaders to guide our industry forward. To be a Legend requires achieving a level of influence that not only transcends expertise or leadership, but represents a profound and lasting impact that sets you all apart, making you a benchmark for excellence and a source of inspiration for others.

As pioneers in this industry, you have had both the courage and foresight to experiment with new equipment, fuels, and ideals that are reshaping the industry. Your transformational impact is not only making our industry stronger but inspiring the future of our energy businesses. If I were to add up the number of years that you have all been committed to your work in the energy space, I would be well into the triple digits. The expertise that comes from decades of commitment to this industry that you are all so passionate about is both admirable and inspiring to those working to reach the standard of excellence that you have all set. In a forever changing economic, social, and political climate, you have had the courage to face great challenges with strength and innovation, setting a clear vision for our future.

Community and collaboration have never been more important in this industry than they are now. Whether it is supplying the equipment, supplying the product, testing the product, marketing the product, or most importantly delivering the product to all of our customers, this year's honorees have worked in partnership to create and deliver renewable fuels in an impactful way. With your legendary qualities, you have certainly paved the way for our multigenerational businesses to succeed in the decades to come.

We are grateful for the paths you have forged and the standards you have set for our entire industry. Wishing you continued success and impact in all your endeavors.

With that, I am pleased to announce the 2025 NEFI honorees:

Legends:

- Peter Aziz, President & CEO, Valiant Energy Solutions
- Kevin Beckett, President & CEO, R.W. Beckett Corporation
- Dr. Thomas A. Butcher, Director of NORA Laboratory
- Rich Goldberg, President, Warm Thoughts Communications
- Eric Slifka, President & CEO, Global Companies, LLC.

Jack Sullivan Award for Industry Excellence

- Charlie Uglietto, Owner, Cubby Oil & Energy



Ted Noonan
NEFI Chairperson
Noonan Energy

Congratulations, Rich

We're proud to see the industry recognize what we've known all along.



We've seen the work behind the recognition: the ideas, the leadership and the belief in what's possible.



Rich Goldberg

This award reflects **the impact you've had** on our industry and the standard you've set for all of us. We're proud to be part of what you've built.



*With admiration,
Your team at Warm Thoughts Communications*



PROGRAM



6:00 pm
Cocktail Reception

7:15 pm
Welcome Remarks

7:25 pm
Dinner

After Dinner
Legends Awards Presentation:
Jim Townsend, Master of Ceremonies

Awards will be presented in the following order:

Peter Aziz
Kevin Beckett
Tom Butcher
Rich Goldberg
Eric Slifka

After Legends
Jack Sullivan Award Presentation:
Jim Townsend, Master of Ceremonies
Awardee – Charlie Uglietto

Following the awards, Jim Townsend will give closing remarks – thanking the Legends past and present and all who have made this evening a success.



**Congratulations to Legends Award
& The Jack Sullivan Award for Fuel
Industry Excellence honorees!**

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commitment to our industry.

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PAST HONOREES



Steve Abbate	Judy Garber	Stanley W. Peters
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Victor Allienello	Julie Gill	Joe Petrowski
Michael Anton	Pam Giordano	Lawrence F. Pfaff
Robert Barrieau J	Richard "Dick" Gower	Joyce Porto
John D. Beckett	Andrea J. Grant, Esq.	Henry M. Powers
Raymond P. Bellemore	John J. Griffin	Diane Quesnelle
Alvin Bicknell	Jeff Hammond	Robert Richard
Peter Bourne	Ronnell F. Harris	William B. Riddell
William J. Breed	Ted Harris	James Robertson
William F. Briggs, Sr.	Hart Family	Kevin Rooney
Bruce S. Buckingham	Allison Heaney	Richard B. Salmonsens
Cy Buckley	Christopher A. Herb	George S. Santa
Lawrence S. Burke	Richard T. Horan, Sr.	Joseph Santoro
Charles H. Burkhardt	Charles S. Isenberg	Eugene F. Scopa
Matt Cota	Albert Kaneb	Edward Scott, Jr.
Sean Cota	John Kaneb	Edward P. Scott, Sr.
Donald B. Craft	Korrow Family	Robert Sculley
Cullinan Family	Rocco J. Lacertosa	Katrina Scully-Ohl
David Daoust	Peter Lombardi	Irik P. Sevin
Robert E. DeBlois	Peter F. MacFarlane	Alfred Slifka
Eric DeGesero	Scott D. MacFarlane	Richard B. Slifka
Kris DeLair	Larry K. Mahaney	Christian O. Smart
Michael Devino, Jr.	Thomas Malloy	Bernard A. Smith
James J. Diotalevi	Gerald "Gerry" Martel	Jack Sullivan
Milton Dolinsky	Dave Martin	Charles E. Summers, Jr.
Charles H. Downey	Norbert Mitchell, Sr	Charles E. Thomas
Louis Ehrich, Jr.	John Mitchell, Sr.	Dorothy R. Townsend
Roberta Fagan	Terry Moran	James Townsend
Ermer Family	Richard Morrell	John B. Tucker
Estes Family	Paul Nazzaro Sr	Kelley Tully
Sandra Farrell	Robert Noble	Ellen Valentino
Robert W. Fawcett	Noonan Family	Richard "Dick" C. Whiting, Sr.
Robert R. Fawcett	Walter Noyes	Doug Woosnam
Michael Ferrante	Susan Ware Page	Jeff Woosnam
Richard J. Fleming	John Peters	Lee Yaffa
Royce Friedman		



2025

August 21 | Encore Boston

Honoring the 2025 Legends of the Industry

At Thermo Products, we proudly recognize the individuals whose vision, leadership, and dedication continue to move our industry forward.

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— HONOREE —

Peter Aziz

President & CEO, Valiant Energy Solutions

Peter shoveled coal, cleaned furnaces and delivered heating oil as a teenager before escaping to Colgate University and later to New York City, where he married Susan Becker, the most impressive woman he has ever met.

Despite his successful escape from the family business, it recaptured him in 1988. He had the honor of working alongside his father, Paul, as they grew the company from 7 to 25 employees before Paul retired. Peter further grew the company, then Bantam Home & Energy, until merging with Wesson Energy in 2017.



He currently chairs the board of the combined company, now operating as Valiant Home & Energy, and serves as President and CEO, working alongside his great friend and colleague Craig Snyder.

Peter and Susan raised three daughters in Litchfield, CT – Helen, Claire and Lucy – in whom they are endlessly delighted, and who are all smart enough to have escaped the business entirely. One runs a private preschool, one consults for the US Government, and one does something hard to understand in the world of cryptocurrency. Peter is the fifth smartest person in his family.

He has had the privilege of chairing the boards of both the Connecticut Energy Marketers Association (CEMA) and the National Energy and Fuels Institute (NEFI). He has served as a Director of the National Oilheat Research Alliance (NORA) and a member of the Connecticut Marketers Committee of the Propane Gas Association of New England (PGANE).

Outside the industry, Peter chairs the board of Greenwoods Counseling, a not-for-profit working to transform mental healthcare in Northwest Connecticut. He has chaired the boards of Litchfield Performing Arts, Camp Washington, and the Litchfield Rotary Club. Peter also serves on the board of Northwest Community Bank, and has served as Senior Warden of St. Michael's Episcopal Church, and as a member of Litchfield's Board of Finance.

(Some of these roles made Peter long for his teenage job of shoveling coal in July.)

Peter treasures the friendships he has made with his many peers in the industry, and with all his employees, past and present, whose commitment to extraordinary customer service has created value for thousands of Connecticut homeowners.

— HONOREE —

Kevin Beckett

President & CEO, R.W. Beckett Corporation

Kevin A. Beckett is the president and chief executive officer of the R.W. Beckett Corporation located in North Ridgeville, Ohio, now in its 88th year, with operations in Ohio, Italy, United Kingdom, South Carolina and North Carolina.



Kevin joined the family of companies in 1991, succeeding his father, John D. Beckett, as CEO in November 2003, establishing the third generation of leadership of the R.W. Beckett Corporation. Through a series of innovations and acquisitions under his leadership, Beckett has built out a portfolio of liquid fuels related components, including igniters, controls, tank accessories, fire safety valves, filters, deaerators, nozzles, and most recently oil furnaces. This builds on the company's commitment to provide the fastest carbon reduction solution for the northeast, while providing safe, reliable, and affordable heat, with tank to flame solutions for 100% renewable fuels.

Kevin served as Co-chair of the Investment Committee for AEC for 15 years. More recently, "It has been a privilege to partner with NEFI in the fight for consumer choice!" Beckett serves on the NEFI Executive Committee, is Treasurer of the AHRI board, and serves on various corporate boards as well as Christian non-profits and foundations.

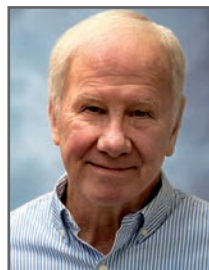
Kevin and his wife, Ellie, have been married since 2000, and are the parents of Gracianna, Spencer, and Sullivan. Kevin has a B.S. degree in Management and Engineering from Clarkson University, and an MBA degree from Northwestern's Kellogg School of Management.

— HONOREE —

Dr. Thomas Butcher

Director, NORA Laboratory

Tom Butcher has long had a passion for engineering and technology. He received a Bachelor's Degree in Engineering from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, a Master's Degree at Stevens Institute of Technology, and his PhD at Stony Brook University. He started at Brookhaven Lab in 1978 and began working on combustion and biofuels immediately. Tom has a long history in a very wide range of energy projects. About 10 years ago Tom started a transition moving his passion to the NORA lab in Plainview.



While he has worked on many projects, he feels the areas that have had the most impact include: research on the benefits of reducing fuel sulfur, addressing barriers to biofuel use, and understanding actual in-field efficiency opportunities. Tom feels really fortunate to have had a chance to work with so many talented and enthusiastic collaborators.

Tom and Donna have been married for 43 years and their four wonderful children have brought their families here to Boston.

— HONOREE —

Richard Goldberg

President, Warm Thoughts Communications

Rich entered the oil business in 1986 through the back door. At 25, with \$2,000 from his dad Chicky, he launched a fuel buying co-op called H.E.A.T—Heating Energy Affordable Today. Boosted by frequent TV news appearances, he grew his customer base to 14,000 families in NYC and Long Island and contracted with thirty heating oil companies. Working closely with suppliers convinced him they were misunderstood, inspiring him to launch Warm Thoughts Communications, Inc. in 1992.



The idea for Warm Thoughts struck Rich while inhaling nitrous oxide in his dentist's chair and reading their newsletter - *Tooth Bits*. In his giddy state, he imagined a similar customizable newsletter which would help oil dealers communicate more effectively with customers, improve retention, and discourage conversions to gas.

For two years, he ran H.E.A.T. and Warm Thoughts with 40 employees, all while serving as President of the Young Entrepreneurs Organization in NY and later on its international board. In 1994, legendary NYC oilman and early client Peter Heaney offered to buy H.E.A.T., and Rich turned his focus exclusively to growing his marketing firm.

Warm Thoughts quickly expanded to tackle major challenges for oil companies. They pioneered strategies to significantly raise service plan prices without customer losses, helped companies charge for price caps, and shifted large numbers of customers to budget plans. They explained why oil dealers don't cause or profit from price spikes (with inserts that sold over a million copies). They ran focus groups to help companies better understand their customers and markets and created Breakthrough Groups™ where 50 dealers share best practices and support each other's personal and company growth.

Rich has long encouraged industry leaders to think outside the box. He's written articles, and delivered speeches at industry trade show, and ran the marketing track at NEFI's 2008 HEAT show. His team developed strategies to help associations use NORA funds effectively. He led the 2015 landmark consumer study in six states which revealed the critical importance of biofuels. Warm Thoughts has also played a leading role in helping associations fight flawed "electrify everything" initiatives. Today, Warm Thoughts looks very different from its 1992 start. Rich and partners Ben Gutkin and Rich Carrione manage 200+ company websites and complex ad campaigns for heating oil, propane, and HVAC clients in 42 states with a phenomenal 32-person team. Most importantly, Rich is blessed with his supportive wife of 40+ years, Laurie, four wonderful kids—Haily, Rachel, Eric, and Casey—and a soon-to-be son-in-law, Daniel.

— HONOREE —

Eric Slifka

President & CEO, Global Companies, LLC

Eric Slifka's story is a testament to personal achievement and the collective vision of his family. His journey highlights how strong relationships and strategic partnerships can drive success and create a lasting impact. Eric's remarkable career with Global Partners exemplifies his commitment to family values, strategic vision, continuous growth, and exceptional leadership.



Eric's career began in childhood, going to work with his father on weekends at the family's retail home heating oil company. He later gained hands-on experience in various aspects of the business, including terminals, bulk operations, vessel movement, and truck loading racks. These early experiences laid the foundation for his future success in the family business.

Eric worked closely with his father, Fred Slifka, learning every facet of the energy sector—terminals, wholesale, supply, trading, risk management, retail—and how to strategically integrate them. His formative years included trips to Venezuela and other parts of South America, where he became deeply involved in the family's diverse energy ventures.

In 1998, Eric's expertise and dedication led him to become the Chief Operating Officer of Global Companies. Under his leadership, the company underwent significant strategic changes. By 2003, he was promoted to President and Chief Executive Officer, roles in which he spurred a new era of growth and innovation. His leadership was crucial in taking Global Partners public in 2005 as a master limited partnership. Since then, the company has grown more than tenfold, and Eric is particularly proud of distributing more than a billion dollars to unit holders.

Beyond his corporate success, Eric is actively involved in philanthropy and industry organizations. He serves on the National Petroleum Council, the board of the Energy Policy Research Foundation, Inc., and the Massachusetts General Hospital President's Council. Through the Global for Good Fund, Eric continues the family tradition of giving back, showing a strong commitment to community and social responsibility.

Eric's leadership is rooted in trust, relationships, and personal connections. His approach emphasizes building and nurturing partnerships, a philosophy central to Global Partners' success. He has created a corporate environment where every team member plays a role in the company's achievements. His journey reflects a dedication to family, stability, and the values of trust and execution that have elevated Global Partners to its current prominence.

Eric lives in the Boston area with his wife and has a daughter and two sons, both of whom are actively involved in the business. He enjoys boating, golfing, and spending time with family and friends.

The logo features the name "Jack Sullivan" in a large, bold, serif font, with "Award" in a smaller, italicized script font below it. The text is flanked by decorative flourishes and a stylized knot or bow at the top.

Charlie Uglietto

Owner, Cubby Oil & Energy

President/Owner – Cubby Oil & Energy – a
Multigenerational Renewable Fuel, Heating Oil,
Diesel Fuel, Natural Gas Broker and HVAC provider
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September 2019

Co-Chair – Northeast Working Group - current

Past Chair – National Oil Heat Research Alliance

Executive Committee Member Massachusetts Energy Marketers Association

Executive Committee Member National Oil Heat Research Alliance

Executive Committee Member National Energy & Fuels Institute

Member Clean Fuels Alliance America

Advisory Board Member – Arlington Catholic High School & St. Agnes
Grammar School

Arlington Catholic High School Alum – Class of 1979

BA from Harvard University 1983

Married 36 years to Robin Uglietto with 3 sons – Tony and Andrew who work
in the family business and Joe who owns Diversified Energy Specialists.

National Energy & Fuels Institute
And Its Staff

Congratulate And Express
Our Gratitude To All Those
Recognized This Year

~ & ~

With The 2025 Legends
of Oilheat Honor and
Jack Sullivan Award

~ & ~

Thank You for Your Passion and
Dedication to our Industry's Success





Celebrating the Legends Who Inspire Us All.

At Global Partners, we've spent over 90 years building relationships, showing up with dedication, and delivering excellence. We see the same values reflected in this year's 2025 Legends Award honorees. We're proud to recognize their outstanding achievements and the impact they make every day.

Congratulations to each of this year's winners, you inspire us and the communities you serve.

Global Partners is a leading independent owner, supplier, and operator of liquid energy terminals, fueling locations, and retail experiences. We work tirelessly for our customers and guests, delivering the fuels, low-carbon solutions, food, and services they count on - while investing in the future of energy and best-in-class retail experiences that serve and strengthen our communities.

Learn more about Global Partners at www.globalp.com.



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