



NATIONAL GRANGE

Elevating rural interests since 1867

1616 H St. NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20006

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National Grange Presents Rural Health Champion Awards to Bipartisan Congressional Leaders for Alzheimer's Policy Leadership

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The National Grange is proud to present its Rural Health Champion Award to members of Congress who have demonstrated leadership in addressing the unique healthcare challenges facing rural communities. This year's honorees have worked to promote brain health and expand access to innovative Alzheimer's diagnostics in rural communities.

"Alzheimer's has touched families in every corner of rural America, and for too long those families have been left to face it with fewer resources, fewer specialists, and fewer options," said Christine Hamp, President of the National Grange. "Geography should never determine whether someone receives a diagnosis in time to benefit from treatment – and right now, for too many rural Americans, it does. We are grateful to these champions for advocating for rural communities."

This year's honorees are:

- **Rep. Vern Buchanan (R-FL-16)**
- **Rep. Paul Tonko (D-NY-20)**
- **Rep. Richard Hudson (R-NC-09)**
- **Rep. John Joyce, M.D. (R-PA-13)**
- **Rep. Jennifer McClellan (D-VA-04)**
- **Rep. Mike Thompson (D-CA-04)**
- **Rep. Jason Smith (R-MO-08)**

The National Grange recently released a report, [*Leveraging Innovation to Improve Alzheimer's Diagnosis and Care in Rural America*](#), which examines how rural Americans face a disproportionate and growing burden from Alzheimer's disease – driven by structural barriers that delay diagnosis, limit access to emerging therapies, and impose staggering costs on patients, caregivers, and rural health systems.

The report recommends practical policy solutions that lawmakers implement, including passing the bipartisan [Alzheimer's Screening and Prevention \(ASAP\) Act](#) – led by Reps. Buchanan (R-FL) and Tonko (D-NY) – which would create a clear pathway for Medicare coverage of FDA-cleared blood tests for Alzheimer's screening. Earlier detection can help individuals and families plan for the future, connect with care and support services, consider available treatment options, participate in clinical trials, and pursue strategies to reduce their risk. The National Grange is proud to recognize lawmakers who have championed this legislation and the broader policy agenda needed to bring rural communities fully into the future of Alzheimer's care.

The tools to change outcomes for rural Alzheimer's patients are within reach. The National Grange is proud to stand alongside the members of Congress who are working to ensure that no rural family is left behind.

About the National Grange

The National Grange is a community-driven, nonpartisan organization that brings people together to strengthen their local communities through service, shared learning, leadership, and connection to the land. Founded in 1867, the Grange includes more than 1,400 local chapters across the country, where members take action on what matters most close to home. From supporting families and schools to organizing events and advocating for local needs, Grange members contribute millions of hours of service each year. The Grange creates opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds to make a meaningful difference in their communities. Learn more at www.nationalgrange.org.

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