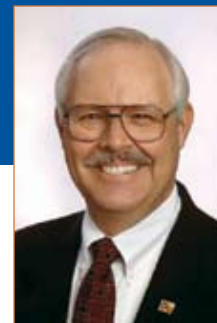


Past National Treasurer Charles W. Culkin Jr., CGFM, to Receive AGA's Highest Honor, the Robert W. King Memorial Award



Long before AGA had two Certified Meeting Professionals on staff to oversee conferences like the PDC, Charlie Culkin was the one you'd see running around with a clipboard and a walkie-talkie. He managed the technical committees, worked with the hotels and kept the events on budget—all as a volunteer member. For this and many other contributions to the Association, Charles W. Culkin Jr. will receive AGA's highest honor, the Robert W. King Memorial Award, on Wednesday. Charlie will also receive the Washington, D.C. Chapter's Robert W. King Memorial Award this spring.

A Past National Treasurer, former executive director and longtime member of AGA's Northern Virginia Chapter, Charlie epitomizes the spirit of the Association's founder Robert W. King. The award is given in the form of a gold medalion to an Association member for distinguished service of such significance that it has greatly enhanced the Association's national prestige and stature.

"Charlie is most deserving of the Robert W. King Memorial Award for all his many years of volunteer service on behalf of AGA," said Past National President (2002-2003) William J. Anderson Jr., CGFM, who served during Charlie's tenure as executive director. "His total commitment and dedication to the Association is deeply appreciated and applauded. His numerous contributions are an inspiration to be emulated. As a volunteer leader and executive director of AGA, Charlie truly represented AGA's core values of service, accountability, integrity and leadership."

At the time of his retirement as executive director in 2003, Charlie said he was most proud of helping to establish AGA's Certificate of Excellence in Accountability Reporting (CEAR) Program. Now in its ninth year, the CEAR Program continues to elevate the quality of federal Performance and Accountability Reports. Charlie also pointed to the Certificate of Excellence in Service Efforts and Accomplishments Reporting, which was just beginning when he retired, and the Corporate Partner Program as points of pride from his years as executive director.

His successor, Relmond Van Daniker, DBA, CPA, points to those three programs as examples of Charlie's contributions to AGA's current successes. "Charlie helped to lay the groundwork for a lot of the things we are doing today," Van Daniker said. "I inherited a strong foundation to build upon when I arrived at AGA."

Several of the National Presidents who served during Charlie's stint as executive director agree that his efforts helped them tremendously during their terms.

"I had the honor of being the first National President to work with Charlie for an entire year in his capacity as executive director," said Past National President (1997-1998) Douglas K. Haywood, CGFM. "This was an experience I will cherish forever. Charlie's attention to detail and his outstanding administrative skills allowed me to devote my entire year to chapter visits, board meetings and conference presentations without concern for National Office activities. Further, Charlie's career with the U.S. GAO and his resultant contacts with the government community brought a great deal of credibility to our Association, not only at the federal level, but with state, local and tribal governments as well."

Past National President (2001-2002) Richard V. Norment, CGFM, CIA, said, "When I was considering whether I wanted to pursue being AGA National President, one of the important factors was who was serving as the executive director. Having Charlie in that position gave me the comfort I needed to become National President. I was not disappointed. Charlie's leadership and support was always there and he went the extra mile to ensure my successful term as President. Charlie served as a mentor to me in those early years and was an inspiration to me to see someone so dedicated, energetic and so willing to serve the best interest of our association. I thank Charlie for his many years of dedication and hard work on behalf of AGA and for being there to support me while I served as National Treasurer and National President. I treasure the friendship of Charlie and his wife Cindi."

Past National President (1996-1997) Mitch Laine, CGFM, served as President the year that Charlie was National Treasurer and chosen to be executive director. "While serving as National Treasurer, Charlie was the glue that held AGA together—his hard work, integrity and leadership helped AGA successfully navigate through a period of significant challenges and change. Everyone knew that they could count on Charlie to get the job done."

During Charlie's year as National Treasurer, AGA's executive director left the Association and a national search was commenced to find a replacement. When the search had come full circle, the committee focused on the most logical of choices—Charlie Culkin. He resigned as National Treasurer a few months before his term was up, retired after 27 years at the U.S. General Accounting Office (now the Government Accountability Office) and came to work at AGA the very next day.

He left AGA in 2003 and moved to Sarasota, Florida, where his ailing mother lived. She has since passed away and Charlie has said he was glad he moved when he did since he and his wife Cindi were able to make both of their mothers' final years much more pleasant than they would have been otherwise.

AGA's loss has definitely been the gain of the Our Lady of Victory Council of the Knights of Columbus in Sarasota, which has benefited from the formidable energy of both Charlie and Cindi. With 500 members, the council is the fourth largest in the state of Florida and it supports a number of causes, including Special Olympics of Sarasota/Bradenton. Anyone who has worked with Charlie or knows him well won't be surprised to hear that he rose to the position of council Grand Knight faster than anyone else ever has.

Charlie's friend and fellow Past National Treasurer (2002-2003) Richard O. Bunce, CGFM, said, "Charlie's efforts have benefited all AGA members, and he is truly deserving of the King Award. Charlie was an outstanding executive director for the Association, and worked vigorously to further our efforts and influence in the accountability reporting and the research arenas. I was very fortunate to have Charlie's support when I served as National Treasurer. His counsel was invaluable, and I saw firsthand his dedication and commitment to AGA. Charlie never really retired. He has continued to serve AGA as an ambassador as he works with various organizations across the country. The King Award is a fitting recognition for all that Charlie has done for AGA and our members."

Past National President (1998-1999) Thomas D. Roslewicz, CGFM, agrees. "During my term as President, Charlie was always thinking of new and bold ideas to make things better for the Association. His service to AGA was much more involved than just a job description. He served the Association well and is most deserving of the Robert King Award."

Haywood added, "I think that Charlie's greatest lifetime accomplishment is his love and devotion to his wife Cindi and their family. Charlie is a special person much deserving of the Robert W. King Memorial Award. Thanks, Charlie, for what you did and continue to do for AGA, the profession and the citizens we serve. Congratulations my friend!"

Besides his work with the Knights of Columbus, Charlie is perfecting his golf game and enjoys traveling and spending time with his son David's family, which now includes two granddaughters.

Charlie, who will be here this week to pick up his award, said he is honored to receive AGA's highest honor. "It really is a capstone of my career with AGA and GAO and the whole government financial management arena. It is *the* award to receive. After being away for three years, it is nice to be recognized by my peers."

—By: Marie Sullivan Force