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Tina Caparella Receives NARA's Prestigious 2025 Don Franco Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Rendering Industry

ALEXANDRIA, VA, November 12, 2025 – The North American Renderers Association (NARA) is proud to announce that Tina Caparella has been awarded the 2025 Don Franco Distinguished Service Award, the organization’s highest honor, recognizing her exceptional leadership, dedication, and far-reaching contributions to the rendering and meat industries. Caparella has spent a long career supporting the rendering industry by keeping people informed and spreading news in her role as Editor in Chief of *Render* magazine.

Render magazine published its first issue in February 1972 under the leadership of Tina’s grandfather, Frank Burnham, as editor and publisher. Originally developed by the Pacific Coast Renderers Association to expand the reach and content of their small newsletter, the magazine initially circulated only to West Coast organizations, including cattle, feed, and animal health regulators. It eventually expanded nationally, and in 1979, ownership was transferred to NARA, then the National Renderers Association (NRA).

Caparella began working for *Render* in the early 1980s writing the “People, Places” column, later becoming associate editor in 1990. She assumed the role of editor and publisher in September 1996 and guided the magazine through its 50th year of publication, retiring in October 2021. During her tenure, she expanded *Render*’s readership and coverage on a global scale, regularly attending conferences in Australia and Europe and ultimately establishing the publication as “the International Magazine of Rendering” in 2011. Beyond editorial leadership, she served as the magazine’s graphic designer for 20 years, handled advertising, and became its most prominent advocate. Throughout her career, she was guided and mentored by numerous industry leaders, including Ray Kelly, Drs. Don Franco, Fred Bisplinghoff, Gary Pearl, and Tom Cook.

Since retirement, Caparella and her husband John have been traveling full-time in their RV, exploring the U.S., visiting family and friends, and crewing for hot air balloon pilots, including participating in the Albuquerque International Balloon Festival. She continues to share her passion for the rendering industry with those who listen.

“Thank everyone for this very prestigious award. I know my friend Don Franco and my grandfather are both proud of this achievement,” said Caparella of her win.

Tina was presented with the award by NARA’s Chairman, Michael Glenn, at the association’s recent 2025 Annual Convention.

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About the North American Renderers Association

The North American Renderers Association (NARA) represents the interests of the North American rendering industry to regulatory and other governmental agencies, promotes the greater use of animal byproducts, and fosters the opening and expansion of trade between foreign buyers and North American exporters. In addition to its U.S.-based headquarters, the association maintains offices in strategic locations around the world. NARA publishes a bi-monthly trade magazine, *Render*. For more information, visit www.nara.org.