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Our State
CELEBRATING NORTH CAROLINA

***Our State* Magazine's Publisher Bernie Mann Receives Lifetime Achievement Award**

GREENSBORO, NC (May 31, 2022) — Bernie Mann, president and publisher of *Our State* magazine, is the 2022 recipient of the City and Regional Magazine Association's Milton W. Jones Lifetime Achievement Award. Each year, the City and Regional Magazine Association honors a person or business who has greatly contributed to the industry. Bernie received the award at a ceremony on May 23, 2022, in St. Louis during the City and Regional Magazine Association's annual conference.

"I am humbled and honored to have been selected as this year's recipient of the Milton W. Jones Lifetime Achievement Award from the City and Regional Magazine Association," says Mann. "It has been incredible to watch *Our State* magazine grow over the years — from the small, black-and-white magazine I bought in 1996 to the beautiful, 200-page magazine it is today. From the pages of the magazine, we have expanded into digital, engagement opportunities with trips and events, and products through the Our State Store. *Our State* has become more than a magazine. It has become a beloved brand for North Carolinians and beyond. I am excited to see where the future takes *Our State* as we continue to celebrate North Carolina."

Mann purchased *The State* magazine in 1996 and changed the name to *Our State* to reflect the inclusive nature of the magazine. Mann and his team infused color into the pages to highlight the beauty of the state and searched for the best writers and photographers to enhance the content. The magazine has grown from 23,000 subscribers in 1996 to 188,000 today. The magazine celebrates its 89th anniversary in June 2022.

In March 2018, Mann sold the company into an ESOP, an employee stock ownership plan. While he remains the publisher of *Our State*, he is no longer the owner — the employees are. Thanks to this incredible opportunity, Mann has ensured that the magazine will continue celebrating North Carolina far into the future.

About *Our State*

Each month, *Our State* magazine celebrates the very best of North Carolina from the mountains to the coast through lively storytelling and stunning photography. *Our State* reflects the beauty, nature, nostalgia, travel, and food of the state. It's the perfect source of information for those who've lived in North Carolina all their lives, those just becoming acquainted with the state, or those looking to visit or relocate. Published by Mann Media, Inc., the award-winning magazine reaches more than 1,148,000 readers each month, with subscribers in every state and nearly 20 foreign countries. Learn more about *Our State* or by visiting ourstate.com.



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