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# News Release

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## **PRESIDENT & CEO OF FRIEDMAN'S SUPERMARKETS ELECTED CHAIRWOMAN OF THE NATIONAL GROCERS ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**ARLINGTON, VA** — Carole Bitter Ph.D., the President and CEO of Friedman's Supermarkets (Butler, PA.) has been named the new Chairwoman of the Board at the National Grocers Association (N.G.A.) at its Annual Convention and Supermarket Synergy Showcase (S3) in Las Vegas, NV earlier this month.

Dr. Bitter is an outstanding food industry and community leader, evident throughout her distinguished career and service to the supermarket industry. Her professional career began as a management trainee at the Stop & Shop Companies in Boston, MA where she advanced to become the first woman and the youngest manager at the chain. She has earned numerous degrees and awards including a Masters Degree in Business Administration from Northeastern University in Boston, MA and a Ph. D. in Agricultural Economics from Cornell University. Dr. Bitter was chosen one of Pennsylvania's Best 50 Women in Business in 1998 by the Business Journals of Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. Also in 1998, Dr. Bitter was voted one of the Food People's "Food People of the Year" and received the Cornell University Alumnae of the Year award. In 2000, she was presented the True Citizen award by the city of Butler for the many charities her company participated in and supported over the years. She was the recipient of the 2003 Women Grocers of America (WGA) Woman of the Year award.

Dr. Bitter has served on the N.G.A. Board of Directors for five years. She has been President and CEO of Friedman's, 3<sup>rd</sup> generation, family-owned 105-year-old company, since 1976.

N.G.A. President and CEO Thomas K. Zaucha stated, "I have known Carole for over 25 years and can attest to the fact that she is passionately committed to helping improve the grocery industry to better serve the consumer". "We are excited to have a Chairwoman that is a progressive independent operator from a family business with a strong sense of community commitment. Carole represents all of the best in the independent retail sector, and we look forward to working with her throughout the coming years".

Dr. Carole Bitter succeeds Gary Phillips, president and CEO, Associated Wholesale Grocers, Kansas City, KS, who will continue to serve on the N.G.A. Executive Committee as Immediate Past Chairman.

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N.G.A. is the national trade association representing the retail and wholesale grocers that comprise the independent sector of the food distribution industry. An independent retailer is a privately owned or controlled food retail company operating a variety of formats. Most independent operators are serviced by wholesale distributors, while others may be partially or fully self-distributing. Some are publicly traded but with controlling shares held by the family and others are employee owned. Independents are the true "entrepreneurs" of the grocery industry and dedicated to their customers, associates, and communities. N.G.A. members include retail and wholesale grocers, state grocers associations, as well as manufacturers and service suppliers. For more information about N.G.A. and the independent sector of the industry, see the N.G.A. website: [www.NationalGrocers.org](http://www.NationalGrocers.org).