



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 30, 2026

# American Beverage Licensees Honors 2026 Retailers of the Year at Annual Meeting

**BETHESDA, MD** – American Beverage Licensees (ABL) recognized outstanding bar, tavern, and package liquor store owners from across the country as its 2026 Retailers of the Year during the ABL Annual Meeting, April 19, 2026 in Louisville, Kentucky. Nominated by their state licensed beverage associations, these retailers were selected for their excellence in advocacy, commitment to responsible sales and service, community engagement, and strong support of their state associations. Representing both on-premise and off-premise establishments, these honorees exemplify the strength and diversity of the beverage alcohol retail sector across the United States.

“These retailers represent the very best of our industry,” said ABL Executive Director John Bodnovich. “Whether they are serving customers behind the bar or across the counter, they play a vital role in supporting local economies, mentoring employees, and advocating for policies that allow small businesses to succeed.”

From neighborhood taverns to locally owned package stores, ABL Retailers of the Year are small business owners who create jobs, foster community connections, and help sustain a safe marketplace.

The 2026 ABL *Retailers of the Year* include:

- |                                    |                                  |                   |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| • James Waterton & Tricia Waterton | Beverage Depot Spirits           | Huntsville, AL    |
| • Josh Robinson                    | Argonaut Wine & Liquor           | Denver, CO        |
| • Matt Garofalo                    | The Oconee Cellar                | Greensboro, GA    |
| • Robert Colombi                   | CJ's Lounge and Sips in the Park | Rockford, IL      |
| • Indiana Liquor Group             | Indiana Liquor Group             | Carmel, IN        |
| • Gary Rissling                    | Silver Spring Mining Company     | Baltimore, MD     |
| • Anup Zalavadia                   | Best Wine & Spirits              | Cambridge, MD     |
| • Kristie Faufaw                   | Ryan & Casey Liquors             | Greenfield, MA    |
| • Tom Heisler III                  | Pit Stop Tavern                  | Black Eagle, MT   |
| • Emily Stewart & Mary Stewart     | Ranch Acres Wine & Spirits       | Tulsa, OK         |
| • Richard "Rippy" Serra            | Rippy's Liquor & Marketplace     | Charlestown, RI   |
| • Ashley Haun                      | Bob's Liquor and Wine            | Knoxville, TN     |
| • Kim Krayecki                     | Kim's Barrel Inn                 | Stevens Point, WI |

ABL congratulates all of the honored businesses and licensees for their outstanding and continued contributions to their communities and the beverage alcohol the industry.

[Link](#)

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### American Beverage Licensees (ABL)

American Beverage Licensees is the preeminent national trade association for beverage alcohol retailers. Direct retail beverage alcohol sales in the United States generate more than 2.03 million well-paying jobs. ABL's thousands of on-premise and off-premise licensee members are independent and often family-owned establishments. The beverage retailing industry pays over \$27.9 billion in federal taxes and \$25.8 billion in state and local taxes annually. [www.ablusa.org](http://www.ablusa.org)