



The Ireland-U.S. Council

— A Business Organization —

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Barbara Koster, formerly CIO of *Prudential Financial*, to receive the *Ireland-U.S. Council's 2021 Lifetime Achievement Award* at 58th Annual Dinner In New York



New York, NY; August 18, 2021: *The Ireland-U.S. Council* will present its *Lifetime Achievement Award* in 2021 to Barbara Koster to mark her highly-successful and distinguished career in American business. The Council is also pleased to present this much-deserved accolade in recognition of her enduring and sustained commitment to enhancing the business bonds between America and Ireland.

Tom Higgins, the President of the Council based in New York, said "We are very pleased this year to present the *Ireland-U.S. Council's Lifetime Achievement Award* to Barbara Koster. The Award will be a centerpiece of the Council's 58th Annual Dinner to be held at the Metropolitan Club in New York City on Friday, November 5, 2021. In addition to her distinguished career in American business, she has also made notable and significant contributions to the *Ireland-U.S. Council* and its activities, especially to the *Annual Student Work Experience Scholarships* Program now its 37th year of operation. The members and directors of the *Ireland-U.S. Council* are delighted to honor such an outstanding and worthy recipient with an award which he greatly deserves."

Barbara G. Koster, a long-time Board Member of the *Ireland- U.S. Council*, is the recently retired Chief Information Officer and Senior Vice President of Operations & Systems at *Prudential Financial*, where she headed the Global Business & Technology Solutions Department.

As Chief Information Officer, she exercised oversight responsibility for information technology, including cyber-security, technology governance, architecture and standards, global networks and data centers at Prudential locations worldwide. She led the company's *Office of Veterans Initiatives*, a program that helps veterans to transition from military to civilian life. She created a Prudential Operations and Technology center in El Paso for retiring military and military spouses to assist the transition. She was the founding member and Chairman of *Pramerica Systems Ireland*, a technology subsidiary of *Prudential Financial*, located in Letterkenny, Ireland.

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During Barbara's 24 years of service to Prudential, she also created *Prudential Japan Systems Ltd*, was a member of *The Prudential Foundation* Board of Directors and was asked to represent Prudential on the Board of Trustees for *Liberty Science Center* and *Junior Achievement* both in the US and in Ireland.

Prior to joining Prudential in 1995, she held several positions with *Chase Manhattan Bank* starting in March 1976, including President of Chase Access Services. In 2007, she became a Trustee of *St. Francis College*, and in 2018, she joined the board of *Dime Community Bancshares*. She is the proud recipient of the *Tip O'Neill Irish Diaspora Award* and named in the *Top 50 Executive Irish Women* by *Irish America Magazine*.

A third-generation Irish-American with roots in Cork and Tipperary, she has a bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Associate degrees in Accounting and Computer Technology and an honorary doctorate of humane letters from St. Francis College. Barbara and her husband, Robert, have two daughters, Kathryn and Diana, and four grandsons, Zachary, Connor, Aidan and Dylan.

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