NRMCA ANNUAL CONVENTION 2016

LOEWS CORONADO BAY RESORT, SAN DIEGO, CA

SUNDAY, APRIL 10 - TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2016

AWARDS PROGRAM
I am a proud Army brat. My dad, now retired, deployed multiple times in service to our country. Concrete played a huge role throughout my dad’s deployments by helping the soldiers rebuild a country and ensuring his safety and the safety of those serving with him.

The first time my dad deployed I was in kindergarten and did not understand much about where he was living and why he was gone. My dad often sent home pictures in which he proudly displayed his “house,” which was a tent that served as his living quarters for one year. Though the tent provided some protections from wind and rain, it did little to offer him comfort and safety.

Living conditions had improved by the time my dad’s third deployment came and his living quarters had been upgraded to a plywood trailer. The trailer provided better protection against the sand and elements, but did not stand a chance against weapons and storms. To my dad, it felt like a significant improvement over living in a tent, but to my family it felt scary. During my dad’s last deployment he lived in a concrete structured building. He had four strong and stable walls that not only offered him protections from the elements, but increased protection against those wishing to cause him harm. The concrete offered better temperature control and greater sound proofing which allowed my dad to be comfortable and rested. Knowing my dad was in a safe building also gave my mom and me peace knowing he was in a stronger, safer structure.

There were many nights when the military post my dad lived at was attacked by rocket propelled grenades. Most often, the grenades did not reach far enough into the post to do any damage or harm any soldiers; but sometimes they did. Though my dad does not talk a lot about his deployments or the devastation he witnessed, every now and then he will mention something small, and sometimes that includes being grateful for his life and all of the people and things that kept him safe…which includes concrete.

My dad was a part of the Army’s largest combat engineer battalion during two of his deployments to Iraq and they were tasked with rebuilding communities. The Army used concrete to build bridges that served to bring people together and give them access to much needed food and services. The Army used concrete to build schools to replace those leveled during the war. The Army used concrete to build clinics for people to access medical care. The Army used concrete to replace asphalt roads. It is easier to plant roadside bombs in asphalt; the people planting them would pour gasoline on the asphalt, which softened the road allowing them to dig a hole and place a bomb. This is not possible with concrete roadways, therefore increasing safety immeasurably. Concrete was also used to fill the craters created by roadside bombs to erase the devastation war had caused. The Army used concrete to build barriers to create roadblocks and military check points to prevent further attacks and to keep out those wishing to do harm.

While writing about my dad’s deployments, I am reminded of the story, “The Three Little Pigs.” In the end, the house made of brick provided the safety needed to survive the wolf. My dad’s story is the same; concrete kept my dad safe from the wolves. But concrete has done more than just save my dad, it has kept thousands of soldiers and civilians safe and helped a war torn country rebuild.
NRMCA is pleased to announce the Tennessee Concrete Association as the winner of the 2015 State Association of the Year. This is the 12th annual award, and the third time TCA has received this recognition. Some highlights from TCA’s nomination include:

- TCA continues to have a long and productive history with promoting pervious concrete. Utilization of pervious concrete is increasing as state stormwater regulations have shifted from a focus on detention to strongly favoring infiltration as the preferred strategy to deal with stormwater. For more than a decade, TCA’s consistent promotion efforts have implemented a long-term strategy that engages the stormwater community and is now paying dividends as pervious concrete is widely recognized as a viable product for stormwater management for local jurisdictions.

- In 2015, TCA’s promotion efforts included 100 events, presentations, live demonstrations and seminars to over 2,700 people in the concrete industry with nearly 800 of them being identified as decision makers. TCA’s work in 2015 brought statewide and national recognition to its association which increased utilization of ready mix concrete products in Tennessee.

- A wide variety of educational offerings included seminars at two statewide Tennessee Stormwater Association events in addition to working directly with Chattanooga and Knoxville/Know County to hold local events in their respective cities. In addition to the seminars, TCA supports the CIM program at MTSU with a 4-year scholarship (worth $8,000 over 4 years). Since the CIM program’s inception, TCA has issued scholarships to 35 college students.

- TCA manages national certification programs for NRMCA and ACI and is the Local Sponsoring Group for both organizations in Tennessee. Specific programs include Pervious Concrete Technician, Green-Star Plant Program, Certified Concrete Sales Professional, Durability Course and ACI Field Testing Technician Grade One, among others.

- In the advocacy arena, TCA works on behalf of its members through interaction with state agencies such as the Department of Transportation (TDOT) and the Department of Environmental Compliance (TDEC). TCA grew its Legislative Breakfast program from two pilot events in 2014 to six events across the state in 2015.

- In 2015, TCA joined the Transportation Coalition of Tennessee. The Coalition has grown to over 30 organizations and will continue to work for sustainable long-term funding for infrastructure in Tennessee in 2016 and beyond.

- In addition to being a 10-plus year supporter of the RMC Research & Education Foundation and participating in research at a variety of educational institutions across the state, TCA’s primary research project for 2015 focused on the maintenance and cleaning of pervious concrete pavements. Maintenance of stormwater systems has been emerging as a “hot topic” in the stormwater community for both regulators and designers over the past few years and new stormwater maintenance agreements significantly increased the responsibility of property owners to properly maintain and operate the stormwater controls that were installed on their sites. The research documented this process in a systematic way that can be presented to decision makers to ensure the continued success of previous concrete.

- TCA’s campus continues to expand its examples of concrete applications on display, including the recently completed net-zero building which gained it national recognition from the Concrete Foundations Association. TCA showcased its facilities as it hosted the University of Tennessee College of Architecture’s 2015 Summer Studio, bringing an entire class of soon-to-be architects to spend the entire summer on-site learning about specific development projects.
Richard D. Gaynor Award  
For Excellence in Research, Engineering and Standards

Dr. Kenneth C. Hover

Dr. Ken Hover is professor of civil & Environmental Engineering at Cornell University. Previously he served as a captain in the U.S. Army Combat Engineers. His work experience includes project manager for Dugan and Meyers Construction Co. in Cincinnati, working on buildings, interstate bridges and water treatment plants, and a partner and manager with THP Structural Engineers in Cincinnati engaged in the design and repair of buildings and industrial facilities. He holds Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in civil Engineering from University of Cincinnati and a Ph.D. in structural engineering from Cornell University, the latter supported by an Exxon Fellowship. He is a licensed engineer in Ohio and New York. Dr. Hover teaches reinforced and prestressed concrete design, concrete materials and construction management. He has received several awards as an educator. He has been a primary instructor in the National Highway Institute course for state highway agency personnel. His research has focused on freeze-thaw durability, optimizing concrete mixtures, fresh concrete testing and impact of construction operations and environment on concrete in-place quality. His research has always had a practical focus and has benefited the ready mixed concrete industry. He has worked closely with Dick Gaynor on various initiatives from pumping concrete to code requirements for concrete materials. His research has generated more than 300 papers and reports. He has served as a consultant on more than 120 high-profile projects in the U.S. and abroad. Dr. Hover is a very accomplished speaker and presenter, and has a flair for using unique props, examples and humor to facilitate the understanding of complex concepts. He has delivered several presentations at NRMCA technical conferences and at industry seminars. He is the recipient of numerous awards from ACI, ASCE, ACPA and other local organizations. He is the past president of the American Concrete Institute and an active member of committees on specifications, hot and cold weather concreting and the Building Code for structural concrete. Dr. Hover has been a strong believer on performance-based specifications. He was the lead co-author on two of the first documents on performance-based specifications in support of the NRMCA P2P Initiative. He supports the initiative through his ACI activities. Ken enjoys reading (especially history, with a focus on the Battle of Gettysburg) and international languages (especially Spanish). He is a certified lay speaker in the United Methodist Church and is a frequent substitute preacher in many churches in Upstate New York. Ken and his wife Deb live in Ithaca, New York.

William B. Allen Award  
For Outstanding Leadership and Commitment to High Standards in Business Acumen

Hardy Johnson

Hardy Johnson’s more than four decades of service to the ready mixed concrete industry make him a very worthy recipient of this year’s William B. Allen Award. He was employed at Tarmac America and its predecessor company, Titan America, and was president of its Florida Business Unit for 20 years. Hardy has worked in the industry for more than 45 years in ready mixed concrete, cement, aggregates and concrete block operations, primarily in the Georgia, Colorado, Virginia and Florida markets.

Mr. Johnson served on NRMCA’s Board of Directors and numerous NRMCA committees, including Government Affairs, Concrete Promotion, Research, Engineering and Standards, and Business Administration. Hardy was also a member of NRMCA’s Executive Committee, serving as chairman for the 2004 – 2005 term. He also served as chairman of the RMC Research & Education Foundation in 2005. He is a past chairman of the Concrete Advisory Council of the Virginia Ready-Mixed Concrete Association, as well as a past member of its Executive Committee.

Mr. Johnson holds a Bachelor’s degree in business administration and Master’s in business management, both from the Georgia State University. Today, Hardy is retired, leaving the industry in 2013. Hardy and Donna, his wife of 50 years, live in Braselton, GA, north of Atlanta. They have two children and four grandchildren. He continues his service to community by serving on the North Georgia Medical Center Foundation Board and is actively involved in the Boy Scouts of America. He is very proud of his Eagle Scout award, which he received in 1959 and his Distinguished Eagle Scout Award which he received in 2010.
Promoter of the Year Award

Zach Rich

Director of Concrete Promotion/Sales at Silvi Concrete

NRMCA’s Promoter of the Year Award is presented for outstanding contributions in support of concrete promotion in recent years by an employee of an NRMCA producer member. Zach Rich, director of concrete promotion/sales at Silvi Concrete is this year’s winner because of his creative, passionate and effective efforts in promoting concrete.

Zach graduated from Clemson University in 2003. He started a concrete-related company while in college and South Carolina named him 2003 Student Entrepreneur of the Year. Since joining Silvi Concrete in 2006, Zach has had outstanding success promoting concrete. During 2013/2014 he converted more than 1.6 million square feet of planned asphalt projects to concrete, resulting in a cover article for Concrete Producer magazine. In 2015, facing the challenge of lower asphalt prices in his New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania market area, Zach focused on expanding the use of concrete on paving projects where it was already being utilized to a lesser degree. He also expanded his efforts on engineers who have worked with concrete in the past, resulting in several hundred thousand square feet of additional parking lot business. Already this year, working with NRMCA’s Doug O’Neill and Amanda Hult, Zach has lined up the use of more than 1 million square feet of concrete for a two-building warehouse project in Woodbridge, NJ.

Part of Zach’s success comes from advocating advanced concrete innovation and technology, such as 3D lasers screeds, tilt-up construction techniques and anti-freeze admixtures. Zach is also advancing the NRMCA Low/Mid-Rise Building Promotion Plan, which he expects to pay strong dividends in coming years. He is also very active in support of industry organizations besides NRMCA, including the NJ Concrete & Aggregates Association, and he is now serving as president of the NJ Chapter of ACI.

Zach also contributes to the success of our industry in a number of other ways. For three semesters so far he has served as an adjunct professor at the New Jersey Institute of Technology, teaching a concrete course which he developed himself for the school’s Concrete in Management (CIM) program. Zach has found mentors within our industry for each of the students, and he helps them with internships and job placement as well.

It is no surprise that Zach applies his passion and talents to his personal life as well. He is married with three daughters and has served as the mayor of his N.J. township three times. Zach’s personal and professional lives also intersect as his supervisor and mentor is his father Toby Rich and wife Emily is the executive director of NJ Chapter of ACI.

Through his efforts on behalf of his company and our industry, Zach Rich is a true champion of ready mixed concrete. With imagination and enthusiasm, he shares a fresh and exciting perspective on promotion, resulting in an expanding base of customers that appreciate the modern functionality and esthetics of our age-old product.

State Affiliate Promoter of the Year Award

Andrew Marks

Puget Sound Concrete Specifications Council (PSCSC)

NRMCA’s Affiliate Promoter of the Year Award is presented for outstanding contributions in support of concrete promotion by an employee of an NRMCA affiliate partner. Over the past decade, Andrew Marks of the Puget Sound Concrete Specifications Council (PSCSC) has proven himself as one of the premier champions of concrete in the country and as such has been named this year’s award winner.

Andy is a Professional Civil Engineer registered in Washington and Oregon. He holds a Bachelor’s degree and Master’s degree in civil engineering with emphasis on water and wastewater from the University of Idaho and is a recognized expert in concrete materials. Prior to joining PSCSC, Andy was a regional manager for a major Northwest materials producer and a field engineer for PCA.

Those who have worked with Andy testify to his professionalism, passion and expertise that have been a tremendous benefit to concrete promotion across the state of Washington and beyond. He has a stellar record of gaining conversions to concrete as a result of his activities. Examples of projects moving forward now following years of Andy’s efforts are the Port of Tacoma Road and the Logistics NW building, including concrete floors, walls and parking areas. Just these two projects represent more than 24,000 cubic yards of concrete. Andy’s successful projects for PSCSC approach 850,000 square yards in total.
State Affiliate Promoter of the Year Award cont’d

Much of Andy’s value to the industry comes through not just his promotional outreach to specifiers, developers and owners, but also to the leadership and professional development support he provides to PSCSC members and other ready mixed concrete promoters. Andy provides support for other local and national trade associations as well, including NRMCA, PCA and ACPA, and he is a past president and current director of the Washington chapter of ACI. In addition, Andy never passes up a chance to get in front of a group of students, from sitting cross-legged on the floor and mixing concrete in a Styrofoam cup in elementary schools all the way up to guest lectures at colleges and universities.

Andy’s education efforts to promote new and advanced concrete technologies are very strong with pervious concrete being the most obvious example. Practitioners in the area will testify that without Andy’s expertise and steadfast involvement, there would not be a pervious concrete market in Washington. As Don Clem, executive director of PCA’s Northwest Region says, “Andy is a humble, hardworking, honest engineer who has worked tirelessly to promote concrete. He is focused like a laser in creating results for his membership and our industry.”

Concrete Cares Award

The Manufacturers, Products & Services (MPS) Division of the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association (NRMCA) is pleased to announce that the Don Chapin Company and The Shelly Company have been named the recipients of the 2016 Concrete Cares Award in recognition of their outstanding commitment to community service. The Don Chapin Company is being honored in the under 250,000 cubic yard category, while The Shelly Company is being recognized in the over 250,000 cubic yard category.

The Don Chapin Company of Salinas, CA, supports many civic and non-profit organizations in its community, both in monetary donations and also equipment, materials and manpower. NRMCA judges were impressed with all these efforts, but singled out three projects in particular. The first, the Monterey County Sheriff’s Memorial, commemorates those lost in duty. Don Chapin employees enlisted employees and local contractors to build the wall which was completed in early 2015. The second company project was a Boy Scout camp located in Big Sur, CA. When a forest fire destroyed the shooting range at Camp Pico Blanco, Don Chapin used his connections in the construction community to help lead a coalition of volunteers and donors that lead to reconstructing the range over several weekends. The last community effort noted by the judges is a learning and social services center for underserved youth in Monterey County. With the help of Don Chapin employees and other construction companies, Rancho Cielo was transformed on a 100-acre site that was formerly the location of a juvenile incarceration facility. Don Chapin employees helped demolish dilapidated buildings and cleared rubbish and debris. Rancho Cielo opened its doors in October 2004. The value of the reconstruction project was well over $50,000 and company employees still support the organization today.

The Shelly Company of Thornville, OH, was honored this year for its wide range of charitable and community-based efforts throughout Ohio. The Shelly public relations manager meets annually with the general managers of each of the company’s four divisions to discuss community outreach plans. For more than a decade, Shelly’s two employee-driven Adopt-A-Family and Community Action committees, comprised of employees in its Southern and Northwest divisions, have raised almost $94,000 for more than 58 organizations throughout Ohio. Another employee-driven outreach is The Shelly Ready Mix themed truck program. These “moving billboards” raise awareness for charities chosen by Shelly employees.

For 2016, The Shelly Company is again teaming with the American Cancer Society on employee wellness opportunities and community event partnerships. It will also continue holding career fairs, with an emphasis on hiring veterans and reaching out to customers to learn their preferences for charity support.
Joseph E. Carpenter Award

Rickie Grooms
Grooms Equipment/Petroleum Tec

Mr. Grooms was named the 2016 award recipient for his long-time commitment to the OES Committee and the ready mixed concrete industry. Rickie, a past OES Committee Operations Task Group chairman, has worked for 20 years in the concrete industry.

Rickie, a former tracked vehicle mechanic with the United States Army/Army National Guard, has previously held the position of equipment manager for S & W Ready Mix Concrete, and has worked as sales manager/vp of sales for Continental Mixers.

Most recently, in addition to his continued alliance with Continental Mixers, Mr. Grooms is the owner and operator of two of his own companies, Grooms Equipment and Petroleum Tec. Rickie credits all of his companies’ successes to his faith and his mentor who introduced him to the concrete industry. Rickie remembers, “My mentor personally took the time to introduce and teach me the NRMCA Vision. He explained that we are responsible for the most versatile building material in the world and it was our responsibility to elevate, educate and promote our industry. A valuable lesson he taught me early was that other producers/associates are our allies and that other building materials are the true competition. He was driven to change the perception that I and other industries had of the ready mix concrete industry. I came to the industry believing concrete was a commodity, and within hours of riding with my mentor I knew that I was embarking on a career that was much more complex and important than manufacturing/delivering a commodity. I knew if anyone of his caliber was so passionate about this industry that I wanted in. I was blessed to have a mentor that took the time to teach me every detail of concrete from mix design, batching, equipment and even finishing concrete, (my first weekend of employment I helped finish concrete at the Castle Hayne plant). It was fulfilling to learn such a complex industry. I worked “hands on” alongside a group of true professionals that continued my education of industry knowledge.

After a couple years of training with my mentor and other managers I was introduced to the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association where I met a group of industry professionals that were as passionate as we were about educating and promoting our industry. I absorbed any knowledge I could from my peers and took advantage of any time I could spend with the pioneers of our industry movement. I have always felt lucky and blessed to be associated with such amazing people and always tried to learn all I could about our industry as well as contribute where possible. When I think of all the professionals I have worked with over the years I am tremendously humbled and honored that I would be recognized by “them”.

As an equipment manufacturer, Mr. Grooms has continued to support NRMCA and the OES Committee by continuing his attendance at meetings and offering his financial support. Rickie has always volunteered his time for many different projects for NRMCA and the committee, one of which is providing time and equipment for every annual NRMCA’s National Mixer Driver Championship. Rickie also was involved with developing the Fleet Manager Certification Course. Rickie boasts having attended every fall conference/ConcreteWorks for the last 17 years.

NRMCA OES Committee Chairman Jeff Hinkle affectionately notes, “As all of the old time members of the committee know, there is never a dull moment when Rickie is around!”

Rickie has been married for 25 years to his wife Tina. They have two children, Rickie and Courtney, and two grandchildren, Gracen Dale and Dawson Thomas. He’s a member of Trinity Worship Center in Burlington, NC, plays trombone, hunts, fishes and enjoys motorcycling.
Steve Johnson
Martin Marietta

Steve Johnson of Martin Marietta is the Ready Mixed Concrete Delivery Professional Driver of the Year for 2016. A panel of industry judges selected Johnson as the top driver from a group of outstanding applicants from all across the United States. Mr. Johnson (at right), whose home plant is located in Fort Collins, CO, was honored for his career achievements, outstanding safety record, professionalism, driving competency and customer service skills. He has worked for Martin Marietta and its predecessors for an impressive 45 years. Along with numerous accolades, Mr. Johnson unbelievably has never had an accident or rejected load and has averaged more than 8,000 cubic yards delivered over the past three years.

“Steve has reached these milestones due to his commitment, pride, dedication to his employer and peers, and desire to be the best he can be,” wrote Martin Marietta salesmen Ken Nelson when nominating Johnson for the Driver of the Year Award. “He is truly the epitome of a ready mixed concrete driver.”

Along with the winner, two runner-ups were also selected by the judges. The first is 30-year veteran mixer driver Paul Chipman (at left) of Jack B. Parson Companies, Salt Lake City. Regional President Bob Rowberry wrote, “In all the years Paul has driven, he has been accident free. Paul has been a trainer for most of the drivers in the Salt Lake valley. Paul goes out of his way to help new drivers become better and our customers love him as well. The best part about Paul is his positive attitude which radiates through his team and influences everyone that he comes in contact with.”

Also honored as a runner-up is 22-year veteran mixer driver David Mangold of CEMEX, Cocoa, FL. David has averaged an amazing 10,000 cubic yards delivered the past three years. CEMEX customer Kellie Bardo of JR Pumping Inc. wrote, “I first heard of Dave some 20-plus years ago from my father who was a manager for Rinker Materials. My father was a stickler for rules and would use David as an example of what a great employee looked and acted like. David Mangold is a great driver, but an even a better person.”