



## PCI Celebrates Its Golden Anniversary

### The 50th Annual PCI Convention and Exhibition

### The PCI National Bridge Conference Atlanta, Georgia

The year 2004 has been historically significant – and highly charged – for PCI. Fifty years ago, in 1954, six Florida prestressing companies collaborated to form what is now PCI. This was ten years after the first technical committee on prestressed concrete had been organized (ACI-ASCE Joint Committee 323, later 423). PCI and our industry have both enjoyed significant growth over the past half century, and we decided to use the occasion of our Golden Anniversary to celebrate our incredible progress and lay the groundwork to build upon it.

PCI's 50th Anniversary Celebration was launched at the 2003 PCI Convention in Orlando, Florida, and we've commemorated PCI's anniversary in several exciting ways during the past year. A 50th Anniversary timeline brochure, *Celebrating Milestones of an Industry and Its Organization*, was first distributed at the 2003 Convention. The brochure highlights major events of the past half century for both the precast industry and the Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute. The history of the development of precast/prestressed concrete in North America, including highlights of early structures, are documented in a specially-produced 50th Anniversary video that was unveiled at this Convention. The video also offers a brief look at the future of precast/prestressed concrete, including new seismic systems, high performance concrete, self-consolidating concrete, and total precast concrete buildings, bridges and other structures.

The year-long Celebration culminated at the **50th Annual Convention/Exhibition** at the Hyatt Regency in Atlanta from October 17-20, 2004 (run concurrently with the PCI National Bridge Conference, co-sponsored by the U.S. Department of Transportation / Federal Highway Administration). This year's gala event treated members to yet more commemorative creations, special events, and prize giveaways, in addition to the usual full slate of exhibitors, state-of-the-art presentations, educational sessions, and an activity-packed Companion Program.

Nearly 80 PCI Producer Members across the United States scheduled presentations and tours at their facilities and projects as part of our **50 Days of Precast** festivities, providing a great venue for educating and informing our marketplace. This program counted down to its final days with the opening of the 50th Anniversary Convention. A specially-commissioned collector-quality lithograph, *Seven Wonders of Precast*, which features a collage of exceptional structures built with precast concrete, was unveiled at the Convention. Poster versions of this lithograph were distributed to all Convention attendees. PCI commissioned a commemorative hardbound album, *Visions Taking Shape*, to pictorially highlight the development of the industry and profiles several of its key constituents. This volume, designed to grace libraries and coffee tables across the country, made its first appearance at the Convention. The **PCI Awards Luncheon**, held Wednesday afternoon, announced the recipients of the 2004 PCI Design Awards, winners of other PCI awards for 2004, and the key planners and authors of the PCI Bridge Design Manual. For social activities, it was hard to beat the **50th Anniversary Celebration Banquet** on Tuesday evening. Besides the typical dining and dancing, the Banquet featured the announcement and introduction of the **50 Titans of the Industry**, outstanding individuals whose innovations and contributions helped to forge our great success over the past half-century.

Finally, the 50th Convention saw the inauguration of the first class in the **Leadership PCI** program, designed to identify and cultivate high-potential individuals for leadership in their organizations and in the industry.

PCI's 50th Anniversary Convention was truly an event that will be talked about for years to come. I hope that you enjoyed the Atlanta convention while celebrating PCI's glorious past, and can now look forward to building an industry with a brilliant future.

James G. Toscas  
PCI President

