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Earl Shimp Receives FPCA Fellowship Award

Organization Expresses Gratitude for His Lifetime Service

November 15, 2021, Orlando, Fla. – Longtime member and industry influencer, Earl Shimp accepted the Florida Prestressed Concrete Association (FPCA) Fellowship Award recently at the organization’s summer meeting.

Shimp, retired as the Senior Vice President of Operations for Gate Precast Company in late 2019. Though he’s been retired nearly two years, he still remains active in the FPCA organization.

Shimp’s life attitude of being the “best I can be for the betterment of the whole group,” shone brightly during his award acceptance speech when he posed a challenge to the group. Offering to match any donation made towards the newly initiated FPCA Education Foundation Student Scholarship Program, Shimp once again conveyed his passion to build others and desire to influence future generations in the precast concrete industry.

With a lifetime of experience and construction in his blood, retirement simply couldn’t keep Shimp away. Currently his straight-shooting attitude has landed him quite a few consulting gigs where he works to help all parties see the big picture in order to produce the best construction projects possible.

Always knowing he loved construction, Shimp began his career when he was just 12 years old, helping his dad (a brick layer) by cleaning up and preparing for the next workday at his dad's jobsite.

He married as a young man and put himself through night school, earning a degree in Construction Management in 1981. From here, the sky was the limit for Shimp, and he eventually went into business with his uncle, creating their own precast concrete construction company. Upon the retirement of his uncle, he was approached by Gate Precast Company. Shimp sold his business and became a project manager for Gate, quickly moving through the ranks during his tenure and retiring as second in command at the company.

Throughout his life, Shimp has pulled from the values and principles instilled by his parents. Principles of integrity, hard-work, family values, and commitment to excellence. Shimp's advice to the next generation of construction people – "Your team is your #1 asset. If you empower people, they will perform."

Shimp served FPCA in many capacities, helping organize and grow the organization to the industry leader it is today. "We are grateful to have had the privilege of Earl's leadership, influence and get-it-done attitude all these years. He's benefited not just our organization, but the industry overall," says Diep Tu, executive director, FPCA.

Shimp believes in finding the joy in every circumstance and is known for saying, "enjoy every sandwich you're served." "If it's liverwurst, at least you have a sandwich and be full. Once you're, it won't matter what kind of "sammich" it was. If it's steak, well that's a treat!" Shimp explains.

Throughout his career, volunteer endeavors, and family life Shimp values finding the best in every situation and never dwelling on the negative. It was this attitude that led him to the top and this attitude that leads him today.

"FPCA is better because Earl Shimp invested himself in our organization. We are proud to call him a colleague and a friend," expresses Tu.

The Florida Prestressed Concrete Association (FPCA) was founded in 1957 by a small group of construction leaders and visionaries when the Precast/Prestressed industry in the United States was less than a decade old. The FPCA was the first of its kind precast concrete association in the nation and it is from this group that the national association, the Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute (PCI) was created. The FPCA is a not-for-profit Florida corporation. The FPCA's goal then, in 1957 is the same as now, which is to provide the construction industry in Florida a superior building system that is durable, attractive, and economical.

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