



## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE




# Connection as one

I first heard the song on an episode of “The Munsters,” as the Frankenstein-like character Herman Munster takes creative liberties with a toe-tapping version describing how he was created, assembled bone by bone. First performed in the late 1920s as a spiritual song, “Dem Bones,” also referred to as “Dem Dry Bones,” resurrected as a fad song in the 1960s. Eventually the song morphed into “The Skeleton Dance” to introduce kids to the subject of anatomy. You may recall the lyrics, “Toe bone connected to the foot bone, foot bone connected to the heel bone, heel bone connected to the ankle bone,” and so on, up the human body culminating with “neck bone connected to the head bone.” Then the lyrics are sung in reverse order down the body ending with “foot bone connected from the toe bone,” in each instance naming numerous bones that ultimately form the human skeletal frame.

So what does this have to do with precast concrete? Connections, of course! It has been suggested that the song can be interpreted as a metaphor for unity, how different pieces work together as one, similar to our individual precast concrete elements connected to others to work together as one functional structure. Whether designed to transfer loads, distribute forces, or allow the structure to work monolithically, connections play a vital role in ensuring a stable and safe precast concrete structure.

Connections, whether rigid or flexible, may be achieved by welding, bolting, grouting, doweling, coupling, or by means of other engineered designs. Different engineers and precast concrete producers have different preferences for the types of connections employed. What is not different among these connections is their intended purpose, to join the individual precast concrete members to form one structure.

PCI associate members are instrumental in developing connection gadgets that make producers' jobs easier in placing and securing the connection assemblies into precast concrete elements. Producers rest easy knowing that the assemblies are engineered and tested prior to their introduction into the marketplace. PCI associate members are good at listening to producers' needs and production challenges and are eager to discuss solutions.

Be sure to visit associates' display booths at The Precast Show in February, PCI Committee Days in September, and at your corresponding chapter and partner meetings throughout the year. There, you will find, among other interesting items, a plethora of connection hardware options and applications. In fact, you may find connections in more ways than intended. 



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2025 Chair

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