By now, you all know the movie plot for “The Perfect Storm” and how it ends—poor leadership, bad decision-making and a poorly maintained ship combined with a mother of a storm that led to the demise of the ship and crew.

Well, I was thinking about our industry, and in many ways, I think we are weathering the perfect storm. Construction spending is down, companies are chasing work and reducing their margins to maintain a backlog, material prices are rising. Insurance premiums are skyrocketing, and you’re grateful if you can even get a quote. Massive fraud among publicly held companies and suicide bombings are becoming commonplace. We all face a new vulnerability as citizens and as a nation: terrorist threats.

If my daddy were alive today, he’d say, “Son, it doesn’t get any better than this.”

My daddy was a smart man, because he knew that when there was adversity, there was opportunity. Today, we all have the opportunity to do what help make this country great—work hard, innovate, persevere and maintain integrity.

If you are a contractor member of the Association of the Wall and Ceiling Industries—International, I know I am preaching to the choir; you guys are the “cream of the crop” and have already learned a lot from the association. We know that opportunity lurks in every crisis. Change is our only constant. So, like I said in my August message, maintain quality, exercise good judgment and above all, don’t doing anything you’ll regret. Sometimes your best job is the one you didn’t get.