Harry Vernetti

Receives AWCI’S Pinnacle Award

Harry Vernetti, founder of Mid-States Construction Systems, Inc., joined AWCI’s Circle of Leadership when he received the coveted Pinnacle Award during the Breakfast of Champions awards breakfast at the 74th convention.

He became a member of AWCI in 1960 and has been an ardent supporter for 32 years. He attended his first convention in Las Vegas in 1961. He served in all of the chairs and became President of AWCI for the 1985-86 term.

Frank Morsilli, Master of Ceremonies for the awards breakfast and a previous Pinnacle Award winner himself, provided the following introduction for the Pinnacle Award presentation: “Webster’s describes a pinnacle as a mountain peak—the highest point. That’s why the Pinnacle Award is the most prized and coveted in our organization. It represents our recognition of an individual who possesses the most outstanding qualities one can possess in our industry.”

Harry Vernetti, Mr. Morsilli said, “has truly reached the pinnacle of success and in every way measures up to the high standards set by previous recipients.”

Mr. Vernetti completed his apprenticeship in the construction field as a lather on December 17, 1956, while working for the Bertel Peterson Company. Less than three months later, on March 11, 1957, he started his own business under the name Mid-States Lathing Engineers in Rockford, Illinois. In 1963 he acquired a local plastering company and changed the company’s name to Mid-States Lathing and Plastering.

In 1971, having diversified into acoustical tile installations, exposed aggregate surfacing, spray-on fireproofing, exterior insulation and finish systems, and prefabrication, the company moved into the office it now occupies. In 1973 it was incorporated as Mid-States Construction Systems, Inc.

Son Phil joined the firm in 1974 and has worked closely with his father for the past 17 years. Phil is also involved with AWCI, serving as Secretary of the Academy Council.

In an emotional presentation, Harry Vernetti was joined on stage by his family, friends, and other members of the Circle of leadership as they inducted him into this august group.