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NEWS SERVICES

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Michigan Construction Hall of Fame Inducts Four Industry Professionals

BIG RAPIDS - The Michigan Construction Hall of Fame will have four new construction industry professionals inducted during an Oct. 15, 2009 banquet and ceremony in Ferris State University's Granger Center for Construction and HVACR.

This year's inductees are the late Chris Anton of Muskegon, Kenneth Bensen of Lansing, Larry Erhardt of Ada and the late C. Edwin Haltenhoff of Holland.

Anton, of Newkirk Electric Associates, Inc., was instrumental in the construction of a large portion of Michigan's electrical infrastructure. He returned to Michigan after an honorable discharge from the Army in 1948 to start his career in electrical construction while helping to build the B.C. Cobb power plant in Muskegon. After co-founding Newkirk Electric in 1961, Anton built it into one of the largest design-build electrical contractors in the U.S. He was also an early "green power" implementer with his contract for the Ludington Pumped Storage in 1968 – which won numerous awards and was the largest civil construction project of its kind in the world at the time. Anton was very involved in the community as well, supporting the Muskegon County Community Foundation, Muskegon County Habitat for Humanity, the Muskegon Civic Theater/Frauenthal Center and his church, which recognized him with an Orthodox medal in the mid-90's and a key to the church as the "godfather" in 2000.

A minister for more than 40 years, Bensen, president and CEO of Habitat for Humanity Michigan, attributes his volunteers as his success. Since getting involved in Habitat for Humanity in 1985, he has been active in not only Michigan, but internationally. Bensen

founded the first statewide Habitat support organization – which has become a model for other states. In 1986 and again in 2005 he directed the Jimmy Carter Work Camps. Bensen has been involved in more than 3,500 homes constructed throughout Michigan, affecting more than 14,000 lives. Beyond Habitat, he is involved in many organizations including, Michigan Vision 2020 Advisory Committee and Standard Federal Housing Task Force to name a few.

Erhardt, has grown his west Michigan general contracting and construction business from small commercial contracts in 1962 to many of the buildings that share Grand Rapids' current skyline. In 1993, Erhardt Construction received the American Society of Civil Engineers Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement Award for the Lake Michigan Filtration, Low Lift Pump Station. They have also won awards for Van Andel Arena, DeVos Place and Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, which are examples of Erhardt's "Right From The StartSM," moniker. His goal over the past 47 years has been to make the construction project easier for the client.

A native New Yorker, author, bridge builder, chairman, president and teacher are many of Haltenhoff's distinctions. He spent the better part of these roles while at Elzinga & Volkers. His education started off at Brooklyn Technical High School. He then moved on to be a Marine Architect working in the New York shipyards before going overseas with the 386 AAA Battalion during WWII. Upon leaving the Army he worked as an engineering technician for a year before starting Civil Engineering at Lehigh University. It is after his graduation he started working on the Mackinac Bridge leading to his career at Elzinga & Volkers. During Haltenhoff's time at Elzinga & Volkers he was a founder for GMB architects, Civil Engineering faculty at Michigan Technological University and the Midwest leader for the development of the CM project delivery system.

The hall's previous inductees include first-year inductees the late Thomas E. Dailey of Southfield, John Marshall Harlan of Southfield and the late Albert A. White of Lansing; second-year inductees Alton L. Granger of Lansing, the late Herman Gundlach of Houghton, Robert R. Jones of Bloomfield Hills and O.L. "Ozzie" Pfaffmann of Rochester; third-year inductees the late Harry L. "Bud" Conrad Jr. of Lansing, and William A. Hendrick of Saginaw; and fourth-year inductees the late Leon P. Clark of Lansing, Benjamin C. Maibach III of Southfield, the late Ralph J. Stephenson of Mount Pleasant, the late Sheldon G. Hayes of Southfield and the late Sheldon W. Hayes, formerly of Bloomfield Hills and later of DeLand, Fla.; fifth-year inductees John T. Adamo Sr. of Sterling Heights, the late H. Fred Campbell of West Bloomfield, Lee Kitson of Big Rapids, and Robert A. Martin of Grosse Pointe Woods; and sixth-year inductees the late Joseph Dunigan of Jackson, James Klett of Dowagiac, the late John Rakolta Sr. of Bloomfield Hills, and Roy Rewold of Rochester.

Michigan Construction Hall of Fame inductees are selected by a committee of professionals representing the Associated Builders and Contractors, Associated General Contractors of Michigan, Construction Association of Michigan, Michigan Infrastructure and Transportation Association, Michigan Association of Home Builders and Ferris State University Construction Technology and Management programs.

Selection criteria include achievement in technical, managerial and leadership areas, state or national prominence as a result of industry or community activities, and service to the profession and community.

The Michigan Construction Hall of Fame serves as a permanent place for members of the construction industry to recognize and appreciate the endeavors of leaders of the Michigan construction industry. Off-campus visitors can access the Michigan Construction Hall of Fame at www.ferris.edu/mchof. Inductees and their stories are featured on this Web site.

This event is open to the public through sponsorship. Further information is available by contacting Advancement Officer Karen Lerew with Ferris State University's College of Engineering Technology at karenlerew@ferris.edu or (231) 591-2895.

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