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Eddie Williams Receives Prestigious NC Long Leaf Pine Award



Former Senator Bob Atwater (L) with Buckner's Chairman of Board, Eddie Williams

Buckner Companies Chairman, Eddie Williams, has received North Carolina's prestigious Order of the Long Leaf Pine Award for his accomplishments, service and contributions throughout the steel industry. Former Senator Bob Atwater presented the award on behalf of former Gov. Beverly Perdue., stating, "One would be pressed to find any individual that has devoted more time, resources or effort working for the betterment of the steel construction industry."

The Long Leaf Pine Award, one of the most prestigious that a North Carolina governor can bestow, recognizes a citizen's contributions to his or her community and dedication to his or her profession. Williams joins a notable rank of more than 7,000 recipients, including Billy Graham, Michael Jordan, Charles Kuralt and political cartoonist Doug Marlette.

Williams started working with C.P. Buckner Steel Erection, Inc. in 1952 where he began his career as a rebar laborer, eventually achieving the position of Chairman of the Board of one of the country's most respected steel erectors. Williams made his way to the top by working at most every trade and management position within his company as well as holding leadership positions in virtually every major trade organization in the steel construction industry.

Currently, he serves as Chairman of the Board at Buckner Companies, a North Carolina-based corporation providing steel erection, precast erection, heavy lift crane rental, miscellaneous iron, and industrial rigging services.



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Williams is one of six founding members of Steel Erectors Association of the Carolinas that evolved into the Steel Erectors Association of America (SEAA). Through his tenacity, Williams secured SEAA a voice on the SENRAC Committee, providing the organization the opportunity to influence the writing of OSHA law that would govern how the entire construction industry would conduct business for the foreseeable future. He has served as SEAA President three separate times, including as founding president in 1972.

For such a humble man, he has served many applaudable positions throughout the community and industry organizations: past member of the Board of Directors for Alamance County's Chamber of Commerce; President for American Subcontractor Association of the Carolinas (ASAC); member of the American Institute of Steel Construction (AISC) Roundtable and Certification Committee; and member of the North American Steel Conference Planning Conference and Awards Committee.

Williams was recognized with the William Davis Service Award by SEAA for his numerous contributions to the association. In 2005, he was awarded AISC's Lifetime Achievement Award, the only non-engineer thus far to receive this award.

At age 79 he still serves on the Board of Directors for American Subcontractors Association of the Carolinas and for the Steel Erectors Association of America.

He has been married for 60 years to Pat Williams. They have one daughter, Teri Atkins; one son, Douglas E. Williams; and 5 grandchildren. Following in his father's example, Doug provides leadership as the current CEO of Buckner Companies, Inc.