

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Mike Preston
Preston Companies

I am in disbelief. I feel like I am just one of so many who have given so much to make this association and industry more respected. It is truly an honor that is unexpected.



Honesty, Integrity, and Quality were the values he lived by; they are the values that I learned from him; and those that the association has continued to carry to this day.

Q: Is there a mentor(s) that shaped your career, philosophy, or work values?

A: My father was my first mentor in many ways, but as it relates to this award, he set the standard by being one of few original founders of the association back in 1970.

Another huge mentor of mine when I first joined the association Board at 27 years old was Mike Fuller, of Mountain Cascade, Inc., also a UCON member since 1976. He was so willing to share all he knew and his low key, humble, 'aw shucks' approach to sharing his wisdom with all was such a good lesson. He was always very unselfish with his time and his experience.

Q: What is the value of involvement in United Contractors that you would like to convey to others?

A: For me the involvement was huge. I was very young when I started working in this business and the experiences with UCON were all unique to me. From labor negotiations to politics to industry friendships to technical applications. Involvement was invaluable to myself and my company. I must believe that others can, and have, experienced the same.



Q: What most important thing do you want people to know about you, your work, and the union construction industry?

A: I would like them to know that I started working for Preston full time at 19 years old; and started with "UCA" committees and Board of Directors by my mid 20's. I have had some degree of involvement since then. So, 46 years full time in this industry! I can say that whatever you give forward into the industry, you will get at least two-fold back in return. Keep the values clear, get involved and contribute. It takes all of us working together to make the industry what it is. ■



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This award is United Contractors' highest honor and is bestowed on a very few as a recognition of service, leadership, and commitment to moving the industry forward. We present this award to members of the industry with the honor of lifetime inclusion in the UCON family and legacy.



Mike Preston has been an integral part of the construction industry in California for over 50 years and has served on UCON's Board of Directors and as President of the organization in 1991. Mike, his company, and his father, Dee Preston, were among the original founders of United Contractors (then UCA) as part of his goal to make the industry a better place for all. Mike has continued to uphold and drive the mission and values of United Contractors, earning the respect of his peers for his transparency, integrity, and commitment.

