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CMAA Honors Distinguished Service and Inducts New Fellows

The Construction Management Association of America honored three of its members for distinguished contributions to the association and the profession during its just-concluded National Conference in Chicago, as well as inducting four new members into its College of Fellows.

More than 800 people attended the National Conference, which took place on October 7-9 at the Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers.

Two Distinguished Service Awards and the annual Distinguished Owner Award were highlights of the concluding Industry Recognition Banquet.

A DSA was presented to *J. T. "Tommy" Thomas, Jr., CCM*, Preconstruction Manager at Turner Construction Company, who has served on CMAA's Professional Development Committee and as a frequent faculty member for webinars and other programs. He is also chair of the Certified Construction Manager (CCM) Committee for the National Capital Chapter and a member of the chapter's Board of Directors.

Mehdi Heydari, CCM, PE, Vice President and Project Director at Vanir Construction Management, Inc. was the second DSA recipient. He was cited in particular for his strong ongoing advocacy of the CCM program. He became a CCM in 1997 and has mentored, lectured, assisted and proctored more than 200 CCMs nationwide. He has held a number of Southern California chapter offices, and has received a President's Award from CMAA National.

The CMAA Distinguished Owner Award, honoring a construction owner who has made a significant contribution to CMAA and the profession, went to *Larry Smith*, chief of the Construction Branch, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District.

Smith started his engineering career in 1971 with the Utah Department of Transportation. In 1974 he joined the Army Corps of Engineers. He has held numerous positions during his 18 years as a resident engineer. He is also a Fellow in the American Society of Civil Engineers. Smith has been a strong proponent and advocate of CMAA's professional development and standards of practice activities, and an active participant in CMAA's Northern California Chapter.

CMAA's College of Fellows welcomed four new members at the awards banquet: *Carl Morse*, founder of the Morse Diesel Construction Company, was honored posthumously as one of the true founders of the profession of Construction Management.

Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, the Pan Am Building in New York and the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC were among the other major projects built by Morse's firm.

Lester Hunkele III, CCM, of Hunkele Consulting, who has been part of some of the most complex and ambitious construction projects of recent years, including the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, DC, the Pentagon renovation, Iraqi reconstruction, the U.S. Census Bureau headquarters and the relocation of U.S. forces in Korea.

Christine Keville, a past CMAA president and the current chair of the CMAA Foundation, is founder of Keville Enterprises, which has grown to embrace more than 100 employees. As chair of the CMAA Foundation, Christine is at the helm of our vital new capital campaign, acting on the theme "Construction Managers Building the Future."

John Tishman, chairman and CEO of Tishman Construction, has been instrumental in continuing the success of the company his grandfather Julius founded in 1898. He has personally been in charge of such landmark projects as the World Trade Center in New York, The John Hancock Center in Chicago, and the Walt Disney Company's EPCOT Center in Orlando.

CMAA is North America's only organization dedicated exclusively to the interests of the professional construction and program management industry. On behalf of its twenty-five regional chapters and more than 4,500 public and private firms and individuals throughout the Nation, CMAA promotes the construction management industry and provides professional resources, advocacy, professional development, certification, and business opportunities to its members. CMAA's national headquarters is located in McLean, Virginia and the Association's website is www.cmaanet.org.

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