



Gateway Labor Management Conference

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**LEADERSHIP COUNCIL COMMITTEE INDUCTS DISTINGUISHED HONOREES
INTO THE LABOR MANAGEMENT HALL OF FAME**

EDWARDSVILLE, ILL., September 22, 2006 . . . Members of the Labor Management Committee of the Leadership Council Southwestern Illinois yesterday inducted three distinguished honorees: David Foree of Roxanna, Ill., Tom Korte of Highland, Ill., and John Tucker of Orange Beach, Ala. These leaders were recognized for their contributions to the improvement of the union and management relationships in Southwestern Illinois. The ceremony took place in conjunction with the 3rd Annual Gateway Labor Management Conference, September 20-22, where hundreds of government, education, labor and management representatives gathered to foster cooperation between parties, address issues of mutual concern, and create a “labor-management friendly” environment that ultimately promotes economic development and growth.

David Foree, retired secretary/treasurer of the Southwestern Illinois Building and Construction Trades Council, got his start as a Wireman Apprentice in 1961 and has been a member of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 309 ever since. He served in a variety of leadership positions for Local 309 before securing his position with the Southwestern Illinois Building and Trades Council. Foree’s long list of accomplishments and contributions include developing and securing many Project Labor Agreements (PLA’s) that ensured a stable working environment over the life of a collective bargaining agreement and rendering employment opportunities for union members. He also worked with regional employers to retain existing businesses and to enhance economic development through efforts with Granite City Steel, ConocoPhillips Refineries, Lively Grove Energy Project, Scott Air Force Base, MetroLink and the Mississippi River Bridge Project. Foree was a founding member of the Midwest Healthcare Coalition, was named the George R. Badgley Labor Man of the Year, served on the Executive Board of the Leadership Council Southwestern Illinois and as the labor co-chair for Labor Management Committee.

“Foree is one of those rare individuals who has the remarkable ability to make us work together while making us smile,” claims Bill Thurston, labor co-chair of the Labor Management Committee. “He has spent his entire adult life improving conditions for workers and making our community a better place to live. His distinguished career has been dedicated to establishing and strengthening the connections between labor and management.”

Tom Korte, executive vice president of Korte Construction, has been involved in almost every aspect of the construction industry. He has acted as a laborer, laborer foreman, carpenter apprentice, carpenter foreman, and superintendent of dozens of construction projects around not only the country, but the world. He has managed operations such as The Safety

LABOR MANAGEMENT HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES FIRST AND FINAL ADD

Committee, the Quality Assurance Team, Special Services Team and the interior and support staff. Korte is a long-time member of the Labor Management Committee Southwestern Illinois and has served as a labor co-chair for several years.

“Korte has a reputation for his fairness, integrity and for his contributions to the idea that labor-management cooperation benefits everyone concerned,” claims Marvin Finkelstein, executive director of the Labor Management Committee. “He has spent 40 active years in the labor-management profession, setting a profound example of the power of labor-management relations in the construction industry regionally and nationally.”

John Tucker, retired director of mediation services of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation (FMCS), St. Louis Region, had a 40-year career in the labor relations field before he retired. During this time he served as a union business representative for the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, District #178; and in a number of capacities with FMCS including, commissioner, mediator, interim and director of Mediation Services. He served for the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, District #178 from 1965-1976. One of Tucker’s greatest accomplishments was securing the naming of Southern Illinois University Edwardsville as one of four Technology Assisted Group Solution Centers (TAGS) in the nation. He is also known for obtaining a \$40,000 grant that allowed the committee to remain viable when funding from the state was no longer available and assisting the committee in establishing the Gateway Labor Management Conference.

“John’s greatest quality may be his ability to encourage and support labor management cooperation throughout the regions he was directly responsible for,” states Ken Keeney, management co-chair of the Labor Management Committee. “All three inductees have the right attitude and unbelievable dedication to what they believe in, promoting labor-management cooperation and communication in our community. Their work is to be commended.”

The Labor Management Hall of Fame exists to recognize and honor individuals who have contributed to the improvement of union and management relationships leading to employment stability and enhancement, or labor and management cooperation in Southwestern Illinois. The three new inductees into the Labor and Management Hall of Fame join past appreciated labor and management leaders, Buddy Davis, Bob Doiser, Byron Farrell, Paul Fultz, Paul Sultan, Dean Turner, Harold Wright, Bill Weir, George Goeddey, E. Gayle Johnson, Dr. Ed Harrick and Tadas Kicielinski. A plaque highlighting all Hall of Fame recipients is on display at the Labor & Industry Museum in Belleville, Ill.

Founded in 1983, The Labor-Management Committee is made up of 12 labor, 12 management and two ex-officio members from companies and unions throughout Southwestern Illinois. The Labor Management Committee promotes labor-management cooperation and communication and is the first and longest running committee to do so in the state of Illinois.

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