

Ken Updike Cameron Ashley Building Products

Ken began his career in the lumber industry right out of high school when he was hired by Bishop Building Supply, a retail lumber yard in Syracuse, N.Y. For two years, he immersed himself in the operations of the company, building a strong foundation in the industry. Afterward, he joined Reserve Supply, where he spent an incredible 44 years, holding various positions that showcased his versatility and work ethic. During his time there, he worked as a forklift driver, warehouse foreman, and inside sales specialist, forging lasting relationships with customers and vendors alike. After his long tenure with Reserve Supply, he stayed on with Cameron Ashley for two years before retiring.

Over the course of his career, Ken was recognized twice as CNYRLDA Salesman of the Year, a testament to his commitment, excellence, and passion for the industry. He cherishes memories of industry events and golf outings with loyal vendors and customers that became highlights of his career.

Ken proudly graduated from the "School of Hard Knocks," learning from every experience and challenge that came his way. His real-world education shaped his approach to work and life.

Born in Syracuse, N.Y. in 1957, Ken grew up in a large family with four younger sisters. Family has always been a central part of his life, from his childhood memories to his current life with his wife, Debra Updike, and their son, Christopher. He is also a proud father-in-

law to Ashlee and the loving grandfather of two beautiful granddaughters, Viviana (age 6) and Carmela (age 3).

Outside of his professional achievements, Ken has had a lifelong passion for dirt track racing. He started as a pit crew member with his father and brother-in-laws and eventually became a driver, winning the Skyline Track Championship three times. Hunting has been another favorite pastime, which he enjoys with family and friends at Bandit Lodge in Osceola, N.Y. He also loves spending time golfing and unwinding at local taverns with good company.

Ken lives by the motto "One Day at a Time." He treasures time spent with his son and granddaughters and enjoys camping trips with his wife and sisters. Reflecting on his career and life, he expresses his gratitude for the honor of receiving the 2024 Lifetime Achievement Award and appreciates the many friendships he has formed over the years while working with retail lumber yards in Central New York.

Ken's remarkable dedication and impact on the industry make him a deserving recipient of the 2024 CNYRLDA Lifetime Achievement Award. His legacy of hard work, personal connections, and passion for the industry will continue to inspire others for years to come.