

# RLDAM's 2024 Lumber Person of the Year



**Lisa Burgess**  
Rankin's Inc.

Lisa Burgess's remarkable journey in the lumber and building material industry traces back to her grandparents' involvement in the 1930s with F.J. Wiley in Camden, Maine. Her grandmother worked as a bookkeeper, while her grandfather managed deliveries. After the Wileys passed away, Lisa's grandparents purchased the business, relocating it to 30 Union Street in 1952 and renaming it Rankin Grain Company. As the feed business declined in the 1960s, Lisa's father, Frank Rankin (2010 Lumber Person of the Year), transitioned the company to focus on lumber and building materials, rebranding it as Rankin's, Inc. in the 1970s.

Lisa began working at Rankin's in the 1970s while attending high school and college. She graduated from Camden-Rockport High School in 1975 and earned an associate in science degree in medical assisting from Thomas College in 1977. After working in the medical field in Hartford, Connecticut, Lisa returned to the Camden area in 1984. She and her husband, Steven, bought a house in Rockland, where she resumed her role at Rankin's and remained dedicated to the business for more than 40 years.

In 2010, Lisa joined the board of RLDAM as a director and later stepped into the role of secretary. Her commitment to the industry extends beyond her professional role; she has actively

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contributed to her community and various civic organizations. Lisa was a key member of the Mid-Coast Builders Alliance in the late 1990s, serving as Secretary and Treasurer, participating in building a spec house, and presenting scholarships to students pursuing the trades. She has also been a judge at the Maine Lobster Festival Coronation, and volunteers for the festival's 10K and 5K road races. Additionally, Lisa served on the Advisory Board for the Carpentry Program at the Mid-Coast School of Technology in Rockland.

Born on November 13, 1956, in Rockland, Maine, Lisa fondly recalls her childhood playing with neighborhood kids and exploring the coast on her family's boat. Her family's love for travel continued with camping trips to New York, Prince Edward Island, and various Maine destinations.

Lisa's dedication to her family is reflected in her strong, supportive relationships. She is the daughter of Frank and Nancy Rankin. Lisa and her husband, Steven, are the proud parents of Michael Steven Burgess and Melissa Anne (Burgess) Grindle. Lisa also treasures her role as a grandmother to Cailin and maintains a close bond with her sister, Lenity Jane (Rankin) Larrabee.

Lisa's guiding principle, inspired by her late father's wisdom, is: "You have to keep moving!" This ethos has driven her exceptional contributions to the lumber industry and her community, making her a deserving recipient of the Lumber Person of the Year Award.

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