

Lifetime Achievement Award Winner: Joseph Hirt

Joseph Hirt, born in Albany, NY, is a distinguished figure in the lumber and building materials industry, honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award for his exceptional contributions and impact over the decades. Joseph's journey in the industry began in 1983 when, during a layoff as a carpenter/joiner, a neighbor introduced him to Iroquois Millwork in Albany. This pivotal moment marked the beginning of a remarkable career across several prominent companies.

Joseph's professional path has included significant roles at Iroquois Millwork, Gerrity Lumber, Winter Millwork, Geo. McQuesten Co., Rugby/Huttig, Blue Linx, Boston Cedar, and Warren Trask Co. His ability to adapt and thrive in a dynamic industry is reflected in his impressive career trajectory. Notably, Joseph earned the nickname "The Closer" from a fellow industry cohort due to his knack for finalizing challenging projects. He was also affectionately called an "amateur anthropologist" by a customer for his genuine curiosity about people and their behaviors.

Among his many achievements, Joseph has found profound satisfaction in his extra-curricular contributions to the industry. His time on the ENYLDA board stands out, where he collaborated with dedicated industry professionals, enhancing the industry's community and collective knowledge.

Joseph's educational background includes a year of college focused on Electrical Engineering with a minor in Journalism, and although he moved to Arizona to complete his degree, he ultimately pursued his passions elsewhere. His diverse interests and skills span from woodworking and stonework to gardening and music. An avid outdoorsman, Joseph enjoys camping, hiking, hunting, and fishing. In his hometown of Albany, he is renowned as a guitar player and songwriter, further showcasing his creative talents.

Married to Jean for 34 years, Joseph's family is his greatest source of pride. Together with their children, Dan (born 1993) and Liz (born 1997), they have supported him through a relentless pursuit of personal and professional excellence. His family has been a steadfast support system, even as he balanced his demanding work ethic with personal well-being.

Joseph's philosophy of life emphasizes curiosity, active listening, and making meaningful contributions. He values knowledge and humor, and he strives to make others happy, reflecting his belief in the importance of kindness and utility in one's work.

In summary, Joseph Hirt's career and personal life embody dedication, curiosity, and a relentless pursuit of excellence. His contributions to the lumber and building materials industry, alongside his commitment to his family and community, make him a deserving recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award.