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Bob Thompson Inducted to Asphalt Pavement Hall of Fame

Thompson Honored for Leadership in Founding Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships, Work to Strengthen Innovation in Asphalt Pavement Industry

San Diego, California — The National Asphalt Pavement Association (NAPA) announced today that Robert (Bob) M. Thompson is the 2018 inductee to the Asphalt Pavement Hall of Fame. Thompson was honored today (Feb. 14) at a ceremony during the association’s 63rd Annual Meeting in San Diego.

The Asphalt Pavement Hall of Fame was established to recognize and honor individuals who have made significant and lasting contributions of regional and/or national importance to the asphalt industry and whose work has led to innovations in the production and placement of asphalt, the usage of asphalt as a paving material, and/or the general advancement and recognition of the industry.

“The Asphalt Pavement Hall of Fame is pleased to recognize Bob Thompson for his outstanding leadership for the asphalt industry,” said Dan Gallagher, 2017 Chairman of the NAPA Board of Directors. “Through Bob’s efforts, a framework for greater cooperation and trust among industry, labor, and government was developed, fostering successful partnering to improve worker safety.”

Under Thompson’s leadership, NAPA formed the Engineering Controls Task Force, ushering in a new era of cooperation between industry, labor, and government. The Asphalt Partnership that evolved from this effort has been studied as a best practices model for how multi-stakeholder research-to-practice partnerships can work.

The Asphalt Partnership lead to the development of paver controls to reduce worker exposure to asphalt fumes. The same model resulted in engineering controls for milling machines, providing the industry with an easy path to compliance with OSHA silica regulators when milling asphalt pavements.

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Thompson started in the road construction and maintenance industry in 1959, and he quickly focused on asphalt paving, building the Thompson-McCully Co. into one of the largest paving companies in the Midwest, complete with quarries and asphalt terminals. He remained at the helm of Thompson-McCully until 1999, when he sold the company to CRH PLC. Thompson earned national recognition, including the Engineering News–Record Award of Excellence, for distributing millions of dollars from the sale to Thompson-McCully’s 550 employees.

Thompson is the only person to serve as chairman of NAPA, chairman of the National Center for Asphalt Technology Board of Directors, and chairman of the NAPA Research and Education Foundation Board of Trustees, leaving a significant impression on each body. He played an important role in the establishment of NCAT, and he was responsible for much of the behind-the-scenes work that helped secure the center’s building.

During his time with NAPA, Thompson also worked to build greater cooperation within the industry, strengthening the partnership among NAPA, the State Asphalt Pavement Associations and the Asphalt Institute to address common industry interests and challenges, including asphalt fumes, stone-matrix asphalt, and asphalt rubber.

### About The National Asphalt Pavement Association

The National Asphalt Pavement Association (NAPA) is the only trade association that exclusively represents the interests of the asphalt producer/contractor on the national level with Congress, government agencies, and other national trade and business organizations. NAPA supports an active research program designed to improve the quality of asphalt pavements and paving techniques used in the construction of roads, streets, highways, parking lots, airports, and environmental and recreational facilities. The association provides technical, educational, and marketing materials and information to its members; supplies product information to users and specifiers of paving materials; and conducts training courses. The association, which counts more than 1,100 companies as members, was founded in 1955.