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# Brian Rickards adds to his laurels with President's Distinguished Service Award



Brian Rickards, Benchmark Builders' longtime Director of Operations and Safety Compliance, was the recipient of the Presidents Distinguished Service Award, presented at the Home Builders Association of Delaware's Leadership and Legacy Ball on Saturday, December 3, 2011. This annual event was held at Dover Downs Hotel & Casino in conjunction with the organization's inauguration ceremony for the 2012 slate of directors and senior officers.

A unique aspect of the Distinguished Service Award is that it is only given at such time that someone has exhibited a continuing pattern of outstanding commitment and service to the HBA/DE and the housing industry. Past recipients include builders Kevin P. Kelly, currently serving a seventh term as a member of the Executive Committee of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) and Alvin T. Schwartz, who, in the 1980s, was instrumental in the establishment of the Housing Trust Fund, one of the first in the northeast.

It was earlier this summer that Rickards accepted an award from the Delaware State Insurance Commission honoring Benchmark Builders for 15 consecutive years of participation in the Workplace

Safety Program. "Nothing is more important to us than the health and safety of our employees and trade partners," commented Rickards at the time. And while the Distinguished Service Award was partially in recognition of his safety efforts, it went well beyond that to include his extensive service and leadership in both HBADE and the community.

Even though time must be a precious commodity for this father of nine, Rickards has maintained unrelenting involvement at HBADE with a special emphasis on both the Green Fest and Delaware Home Show committees. In addition, for the last 13 years he has been active in Boy Scouts and has volunteered time and talents building homes for Habitat for Humanity.

Before joining Benchmark Builders in 1994, Rickards was a project manager for a company that oversaw construction on Naval and Air Force bases, and Veterans hospitals. Previously he headed his own residential and commercial construction company.

Locally owned and operated, Benchmark Builders has been building homes throughout Delaware since 1988 for a broad range of homebuyers. The company is currently marketing seven communities including townhomes, 55+ communities, and traditional single-family-home communities in the Wilmington, Newark, Bear and Smyrna areas of New Castle and Kent Counties, Delaware.