



Painting and Decorating Contractors of America
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PAINTING CONTRACTOR RECEIVES PRESIDENTIAL CITATION FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT IN THE PAINTING PROFESSION

Achievement Recognized at National Convention

(ST. LOUIS – January 28, 2008) The Painting and Decorating Contractors of America (PDCA) 2007-2008 President, David E. Siegner has selected painting contractor Martin C. DeVries, Jr, of DeVries Painting, as the recipient of the Presidential Citation for Lifetime Achievement. The award was bestowed earlier this year during the PDCA Awards Program at the association's Paint and Coatings Expo (PACE) mega convention and trade show in Los Angeles.

Martin C. DeVries, Jr. was born on April 17, 1920, in Beaumont, Texas. His family moved to Houston when he was three months old and he has since resided there. He was the oldest of four children. After graduation, he worked with his father, an independent painting contractor. In 1940 he married the love of his life, Wilma Frank. He and Wilma had four children.

Martin joined the Navy in 1942 and served with the 31st Construction Battalion – the "Seabees." As the war ended, he was discharged from the Navy and returned to civilian life where he resumed working as a journeyman painter through Local 130. In June 1953, he partnered with Henry Haaksma and DeVries Painting where he remained until June 1961. Since that time he has operated his own company.

In 1961 he was elected President of the Houston Chapter of PDCA, serving three terms. In 1962 he was elected Secretary-Treasurer of the Texas Council PDCA. He attended his first national convention in 1962 in Miami, Florida. In 1963, Mr. DeVries was elected President of the Texas Council and served two terms. He was elected Vice-President of the National PDCA in 1967 at the national convention in San Diego, and served in that capacity until elected President in 1971 in San Francisco. He was elected to his second term the following year.

During his tenure as president, Martin traveled extensively throughout the country visiting many PDCA Councils. He also, not so voluntarily, traveled internationally to Cuba on a hi-jacked airplane when he was on his way to the Oregon Council Convention in 1972.

One of his favorite affiliations in the PDCA was the Commercial Committee. The first meeting of this committee was held in his hotel suite at the Watergate in Washington, D.C., in the late 1970s. He has often talked not only about the friendships formed within this group, but also how much they were able to learn from each other's innovative ideas. Strangely enough, that was their goal when the group was organized. I guess today that would be called a fairly successful mission statement!

PDCA has been a huge part of Martin's life. It has actually been quite a family affair. Family vacations were usually to the PDCA's Texas Council convention held each summer. After Wilma's death in 1967, his sister Lanelle accompanied him on many PDCA trips. He married Clara in 1973, and they spent their honeymoon at the PDCA Louisiana State convention in Baton Rouge.

Although Martin will no longer be doing business as DeVries, Incorporated, he will be consulting at his son-in-law's company, R&M Services, where they will benefit not only from his expertise as a painting contractor, but also his history.

Founded in 1884, PDCA represents the interests of professional painting and decorating contractors nationwide. Among the most prominent objectives of PDCA are the enhancement and further development of the painting and decorating profession and industry.

Today, PDCA represents the interests of over 5,000 owners and top-flight managers from more than 2,500 painting and decorating firms across the U.S. and Canada.

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