

In Memoriam

Dave Imming



David H. Imming, of Highland, IL, long-time member of the industry, died Tuesday, December 18, at Barnes-Jewish Hospital (BJC) in Saint Louis, MO. Imming was 69.

He was born July 21, 1938, in Breese, IL, the son of Wendell and Clementine (Foppe) Imming. On September 5, 1959, he married Patricia A. Majors, who survives.

After growing up in Aviston, IL, and graduating from Aviston High School in 1956, Imming went on to college at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, graduating in 1960.

After working in sales for US Gypsum, Imming moved on to Hydro-Air Engineering, a division of Moehlenpach Engineering in St. Louis, MO in 1964. (The company later became MiTek Industries.) In 1966 he accepted an offer to expand the company into Europe, and moved his family to England. With the help of Automated Pressing Ltd, they set up a successful European division. In late 1968 he and his family moved back to the U.S. and he worked as assistant manager at the home office in St. Louis. In 1969 he began working for Lumbermate, which became Alpine Engineering in 1989. He resigned from there in 2000 and began working for Truswal Systems Corp. He retired from Truswal in 2005, but continued as a consultant for the company.

To Joe Newby, district manager for ITW Building Components Group Inc., Imming was not only a coworker and a friend, but a mentor: "He took a bunch of us under his wing when we were just young kids and taught us the trade."

"He always said you don't work for me, we work together," says Newby of Imming's approach to mentoring. "He was always trying to make other people look good," recalled Newby. "He wanted to help other people be successful."

Longtime friend Koss Kinser of Kintec, LLC met Imming in 1969. Kinser recalls, "Dave's love and expertise was with equipment and truss plant layouts." According to Newby, "He'd do anything to help people get their plants started. He didn't mind putting on his coveralls and getting his hands dirty."

Imming was instrumental in getting many of the early truss plants up and running. "Dave is responsible for me being in the truss business," shares Kinser. "When I was out of work after being employed by another truss plant, Dave encouraged me to start my own truss plant. The risk seemed pretty great, but he said 'you

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—Joe Newby

can do it,' so we decided to give it a try."

Over time they became close on a personal level. "Our kids were about the same ages, so we had a lot to talk about outside of business," he remembers. Kinser's wife, Mary Jane, also has fond memories of Imming. She recalls how he took time to teach her the terms for trusses and show her how they make a "V."

While working in the industry, Imming was a strong advocate of WTCA membership. He was a Lifetime member of the Top Chord Club and attended chapter meetings in Illinois and Missouri.

Newby described Imming as a very positive person, a good listener and someone who took the time to treat people like you'd like to be treated. "Dave touched so many lives throughout the country, nationally and internationally for 40 years plus. He will be missed."

This was evident at his funeral. "There were lines in and out the doors, the church was filled with people. It reaffirmed just how much he affected everyone," commented Newby. "It's unbelievable the amount of respect people had for him."

Newby felt that Imming's personality was infectious. "You just loved to be around him. He and Pat always had a positive outlook on life. They had a perfect marriage, the kind everyone would like to have."

In his free time, Imming enjoyed fishing, woodworking, machine design, yard work and traveling to Europe, Russia and Greece. He was a member of St. Paul Catholic Church in Highland, IL, and the Knights of Columbus, Council #1580, Highland.

To Dave's family, Kinser said, "You can be proud, for Dave was a person of great character." Kinser also has a message for Imming, "Thanks, Dave, for being my friend. May God make a special place for you because in my mind you deserve it."

Survivors include wife, Patricia A. Imming of Highland, IL; daughter, Terri L. (Steve) Kunkel of Galesburg, MI; daughter, Traci L. (Marty) Sauls of Prairie Village, KS; son, Todd D. (Chrissy) Imming of Highland; brother, Harold R. "Harry" (Marjorie) Imming of Trenton, IL; sister, Mary Jo (Ronald) Sybert of Erlanger, KY; and several grandchildren. **SBC**

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6300 Enterprise Lane • Suite 200 • Madison, WI 53719
608/310-6706 phone • 608/271-7006 fax
www.sbcmag.info • admgr@sbcmag.info