

NATIONAL
HOUSING CENTER
AWARDS



NAHB

Hall of Fame Inductions & Exemplary Service to Home Building Awards

2023 – 2025 National Housing
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National Housing Center Hall of Fame
2025 Induction Ceremony

The National Association of Home Builders and the National Housing Center Board of Governors welcome you to the 2025 induction ceremony of the National Housing Center Hall of Fame (NHCHF) and the presentation of the Exemplary Service in Home Building Awards.

The NHCHF recognizes people whose spirit, ingenuity and determination have change the nation’s housing for the better, making America one of the best housed nations in the world.

Today’s Hall of Fame inductees have been instrumental in advancing housing opportunity for all Americans as our nation strives to achieve the goal set forth in the landmark Housing Act of 1949 of “a decent home in a suitable living environment for every American family.”

All have had a positive impact on the nation’s housing, and they have been instrumental in the long-term effort to ensure a positive and prosperous future for the housing industry.

Our industry bestows no higher honor than induction into the NHCHF. It is well deserved by the individuals we honor today.

National Housing Center Hall of Fame
An Archive of Housing Achievement

The NHCHF was established by the National Association of Home Builders in 1976 to recognize people whose spirit, ingenuity and determination have changed the face of housing for the better, making America on of the best-housed nations in the world.

The first NHCHF induction ceremony was held in May 1977. Since then, more than 200 people have been inducted.

Many NHCHF honorees have been directly involved in housing as builders and developers. However, the list of honorees also includes land and community planners, educators, architects, members of the media, financiers, attorneys, marketing experts, trade association professionals, researchers, building product suppliers and manufacturers, government administrators and elected public officials.

The NHCHF serves as a repository of historical information about its honorees and their contributions to housing.

As an archive chronicling for the nation the remarkable achievements of the honorees and the changes they helped bring about, the NHCHF assures the continuity essential to an understanding of the forces that have shaped – and will continue to shape – the character of the housing industry.

2025 Inductees

National Housing Center Hall of Fame



Calvin “Chip” Dence
1948 – 2024

From the very beginning of his career, Chip Dence saw the value of membership in the NAHB Federation. For more than 30 years, he was what many described as the “perfect volunteer desired by every organization.” In the midst of building his business, Chip was also building up builders’ associations at the local, state and national level through recruitment and active membership participation.

Chip was proud to dedicate his energy to improving the industry, promoting the organization and to providing the most precious gift of all, his time. He was the guiding light for mayors, judges, city officials and legislators on housing issues in his community, truly living by the vision of NAHB: Building Homes, Enriching Communities and Changing Lives.

A passion near and dear to Chip’s heart was improving codes and the development process of our nation’s residential code, and he served on many committees to move that initiative forward throughout the years. Chip passed away in 2024, and is remembered as someone who cared about people, and truly made a difference.



Donald R. Horton
1950 – 2024

Don “D.R.” Horton founded his eponymous company in 1978 in Fort Worth, Texas, with the vision of providing affordable, quality homes across the United States. D.R.’s humble beginnings, frugal nature, desire to win and entrepreneurial spirit helped him create a culture that permeates his company even today.

Through his leadership, D.R. led the way for the company’s local divisions to become members of nearly 200 state and local home builders’ associations across the country. And through his passion for caring for children, he established Camp Horton, a summer camp that worked to instill his core values of hard work, manners and treating others with respect in the children of his employees.

Today, D.R. Horton, Inc. is ranked #120 on the Fortune 500, has held the top spot of Builder Magazine’s largest builder in the United States since 2002, and has been ranked among Professional Builders’ Housing Giants every year since the early 2000s. Thanks to the work of D.R., over one million individuals and families have achieved the American dream of homeownership.

2025 Inductees

National Housing Center Hall of Fame



Heather McCune

Heather McCune's work as the marketer for home building over the past several decades has elevated the message of residential construction in immeasurable ways. The driving force behind such influential publications as Professional Builder, Professional Remodeler, Custom Builder and marketing director for Bassenian Lagoni Architects, Heather has given a voice, and a platform, to builders, remodelers, designers, marketers and companies from across the nation.

A long-time member of NAHB and well-respected speaker at the International Builders' Show, Heather has made sure that builder members, as well as associate members, got credit for the work they were doing to improve the design of communities and homes.

One of her most well-known accomplishments is the championing of the Show Village at the International Builders' Show. A sought-after educator in the industry and beyond, she has taught thousands about home design trends and marketing concepts at major events, conferences and seminars.

“One of my favorite quotes is ‘be brave enough to suck at something new.’ Through NAHB, I’ve developed relationships that have been the wind at my back to help me try those new things without fearing the outcome.”



Karl “Randy” Noel

Randy Noel, 2018 Chairman of NAHB, has served as an advocate for home building both in his native Louisiana and across the country for many years. All who know him have expressed his passion for the industry and that he is undaunted by the task of changing minds in order to better Build Homes, Enrich Communities and Change Lives.

Following the tragedy of Hurricane Katrina, Randy has been very involved in not only the rebuilding effort, but also in the continued protection of the Louisiana levees, serving as commissioner on the Louisiana Southeast Flood Protection Agency East as well as on many committees that work to implement better insurance practices.

Both within NAHB and beyond, Randy is known as a “master” in code enforcement. A near-ubiquitous presence when it comes to codes discussions, Randy has built a reputation as a passionate advocator for smart, effective building codes. He has served in many roles at all levels of the federation, his continued service will leave a lasting impact on the Federation.

“We change lives and I was honored to be a part of our work to preserve the American dream that changes American’s lives for the better.”



Gregory F. Ugalde

Greg Ugalde built his career in the industry on the foundation of service and connection. A lifelong NAHB member, Greg served as Chairman of the Association in 2019, and led the Association as Immediate Past Chairman for two years through the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In his own words, Greg's introduction to the industry was one of the best things that ever happened to him. Following his graduation from law school, he began to work in real estate law, ultimately falling in love with the world of residential construction. He went on to found GFU Investments, as well as serve as President and Chief Legal Officer for T&M Construction.

Bringing people together is what Greg has found so special about being a home builder, an NAHB member and part of the larger residential construction community. His legacy of finding common ground in order to solve problems has left a lasting impression on his customers, his family, and his peers. Greg truly embodies the vision and spirit of NAHB.

“NAHB has been the cornerstone of my professional journey, providing the platform to lead, advocate, and shape national housing policy while championing industry innovation and inclusivity.”



2025 Exemplary

Service to Home Building Awards

The Exemplary Service to Home Building Award was established to recognize individuals for outstanding and commendable accomplishments in service to the housing industry. These are people who have made noteworthy contributions to housing and had a significant impact on the nation's home building industry.



Lawrence F. Fiano

It is impossible to separate Build-PAC, NAHB's Political Action Committee, from the name Lawrence "Larry" Fiano. The Build-PAC Golf Tournament, which Larry began in 2004, recently celebrated its 20th anniversary, and is the single most successful fundraising event for the PAC each year. Larry's leadership and commitment to the building industry through lifting up and supporting pro-housing candidates has set a benchmark for advocacy for the housing industry.

Larry was the inaugural recipient of the "most prestigious award granted by the state association" from the HBRA of Connecticut, the Charles J. LoDolce Award, as a member who has exhibited exceptional merit that clearly rises above the others. He was also the recipient of the HBRA of Central Connecticut's most prestigious award, the Irving Stitch Award.

His legacy in the industry will be his dedication to his community and his tireless fundraising for Build-PAC. In the 21 years since the Fiano family golf tournament started raising money for the PAC, they have raised over \$1.5 million that have benefitted the PAC's work in Connecticut and across the country.

**“I have tremendous love and respect
for the work NAHB does.”**



Charles & Emma Shinn

Dr. Charles “Chuck” C. Shinn Jr., PhD, is an NAHB legend, with a career that has shaped the landscape for over 55 years. His wife, Emma S. Shin, MBA, CPA, is also a highly respected leader in home building, renowned for her deep experience in managerial accounting and financial management. Together they own and run Shinn Consulting and Builder Partnerships.

Chuck began his career in 1968 at NAHB as the assistant director of economics, and Emma began at NAHB in 1970. During their time at NAHB, they collaborated on initiatives like the Cost of Doing Business study and co-authored The Accounting System for All Builders, which established new management standards in the industry. These efforts were instrumental in helping builders streamline operations and improve profitability.

In 1972, Chuck was responsible for the construction of the Housing Center, and in 1975, Chuck and Emma moved to Colorado to lead the Real Estate and Construction Management program at the University of Denver (DU). Together, they instilled their passion to improve management practices across the home building industry into an educational program. Chuck’s expertise has been sought after by top builders, guiding them to achieve remarkable operational efficiencies and financial success. Emma has also become a thought-leader in the industry as the author of “Account and Financial Management for Residential Construction,” now in its sixth edition, that serves as the definitive guide for accounting in the home building industry.

In 1976 Chuck and Emma founded a home building and remodeling company, creating an opportunity to help students gain experience through internships. In 1992, Chuck and Emma founded the Shinn Group to address the comprehensive management and organizational needs of home builders. And, in 2005, recognizing the need to bridge the gap between builders and manufacturers, Chuck and Emma founded Builder Partnerships. This organization focuses on enhancing communication and fostering strong, mutually beneficial relationships between manufacturers and builders.

Chuck and Emma’s legacy in the home building industry is unparalleled. The work they have done has helped many leading builders weather the ups and downs in the industry. Several builders express their gratitude for Chuck and Emma’s unwavering ability to speak the truth. As a result, many builders were able successfully navigate through the great recession. Today, their influence continues to drive innovation, excellence, and profitability for builders and manufacturers across North America.

“It has been a team effort, and our passion, to improve the professionalism, management systems, procedures, controls and profitability of the homebuilding industry for nearly 60 years.”



Nominations

Inductees to the National Housing Center Hall of Fame and Recipients of the Exemplary Service to Home Building Award are selected by the National Housing Center Board of Governors. Nominations may be submitted by an NAHB member, or an NAHB affiliated local home builders' association.

Learn more

nahb.org/halloffame

For more information about nominating someone email

halloffame@nahb.org



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