



## 2019 Honoree Paul Borders



Paul Borders, born in Switzer, West Virginia, was the middle of three sons of a coal miner. In 1951, the family moved to Sidney, Ohio, where Paul would build his personal and professional life. In 1960, Paul graduated from Sidney High School, along with his future wife Bonnie. They married Memorial Day weekend in 1961.

Following high school, Paul enlisted in the U.S. Navy and trained to be a Radioman, advancing to the rank of RM2. In 1964, Paul was honorably discharged from the Navy and began working at Shelby Manufacturing in Sidney Ohio, a company that manufactured grain elevator equipment, though he had no idea what the equipment was at the time. While working in the subcontract division, silver soldering copper Freon tubes, Paul was also attending night school in Dayton, majoring in cost accounting. In his job, he learned how to replace, remodel and fix things, and through his hard work and studies, Paul was eventually hired as a cost accountant and moved to the Grain Machinery Division. Before long, Paul was in sales and later promoted to Vice President.

In 1972, Paul was asked to serve on a new subcommittee for the American National Standard Institute (later the American Society of Mechanical Engineers) to set standards for the electric lifts that were widely used in the grain and feed industry. After four years, the committee established recommended guidelines for what they called Special Purpose Personnel Elevators. States were able to adopt or modify the standards as their codes, establishing safe vertical transportation for the grain and feed industry and reducing injuries and fatalities. Paul served on the SPPE committee for 32 years, getting to know many State Chief Elevator Inspectors.

Through ASME conferences and other trade shows, Paul got to know Herman Baker, founder of competitor company Sidney Grain Machine Inc. After Shelby Manufacturing was purchased by Copeland Corporation in 1976, Paul was hired at Sidney Grain, staying in the

industry he was vastly familiar with. Sidney Grain Machine Inc. was renamed Sidney Manufacturing Company (SMC) in 1993.

With more than 40 years at SMC, Paul now serves as co-owner with Herman's son, Steve Baker. Throughout the years, Paul has spent time on the road making sales calls, troubleshooting problems, developing relationships with sales reps, all the while serving on various industry committees. His employees, including his own grandson, state that Paul is a man of integrity. As grandson Ward put it: "As a parent, grandparent,

business owner, board member, he has never wavered in his beliefs while maintaining a resolute stance to fairness and generosity. In short, every success in my adult life is a direct correlation to the example he has set and continues to set."

Paul was a valuable member of OABA's *Golf for Scholarships* committee for many years. In his time on the committee, Paul worked to make everyone feel important, and his enthusiasm for the sport made it enjoyable to be on his team. As Walter Paxson put it: "He was a great guy to golf with, as he was an excellent golfer, but made you feel good about your game no matter how well you played the game."

Today, Paul continues to help Sidney Manufacturing grow with his business partner Steve, though Paul and Bonnie spend most

of their time at their home in Florida. After 57 years of marriage, the couple has been blessed with three daughters, six grandsons, two granddaughters, three great grandsons, one great granddaughter and one great grand baby on the way. Even in Florida, he remains an Ohio State Buckeye and Cleveland Browns football fan. Paul continues to play golf three to four times per week and loves the fact that he can still play.

Paul's dedication to the industry is evident in the standards he helped to set and the lives he's impacted along the way. The Ohio AgriBusiness Association is pleased to recognize Paul Borders as the 2019 OABA Education Trust Honoree.

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-Ward Cartwright

## For more than 50 years, the *Golf for Scholarships* outings

have been one of the primary fundraising activities for the Ohio AgriBusiness Association Educational Trust scholarship program, through which more than \$45,000 in scholarships is provided annually to students enrolled in an agriculture-related field attending The Ohio State University and OSU Agricultural Technical Institute, Central State University, Clark State Community College and Wilmington College.