

ROOFERS IN THE NEWS

ROOFING STORIES AND EVENTS THAT ARE MAKING HEADLINES



**Chet Raypholtz,
founder of Fresno
Roofing Company**

*Article and photo
courtesy of Central
California Builders
Exchange*

Chet Raypholtz, Fresno Roofing Company

One of the legends in the Central Valley Building and Construction Trades passed away recently at the age of 90. Chet Raypholtz, founder of Fresno Roofing, a Local 27 signatory contractor, passed quietly in his sleep after a short illness.

Chet founded his company, Fresno Roofing, in 1953, and it is the oldest roofing company in the Central Valley. He got into the roofing business by accident. After serving in the Air Force, he applied for the GI bill. Meantime, he agreed to build a garage for his father-in-law. He finished the garage, except for the roof, as shingles were hard to get after the war.

He found some shingles at Sheldon Roofing, but Riley Sheldon was reluctant to sell as he needed them for current projects. Finally, after much haggling, Riley agreed to sell the shingles, but only if Chet would come to work for him for a

couple of weeks to supplement his work crew. Chet agreed, and ended up working for Riley for eight years before founding Fresno Roofing.

Early on, Chet saw the need for better information and communication between companies in the industry, and architects and engineers. In part through his efforts, the Fresno Builders Exchange was formed. He has given thousands of hours of his time to the Exchange, serving on numerous committees and the Board of Directors. He also served on the Board of Directors for the National Roofing Contractors Association (NRCA), one of the construction industry's most respected roofing trade associations.

Bruce Fryer, CEO of Local 27 contractor Fryer Roofing Co., Inc. and co-chair of the Roofers Labor/Management Committee, was a close friend and colleague of Chet's. Bruce said that Chet helped him capitalize his new roofing business years ago, and that "the only limitation he placed on me was a promise that I become involved in my industry association and give back at least what I had received...He gave so much to our community and to his industry."

In Appreciation of Douglas Jones' Leadership

Doug Jones, president of Local 2 signatory contractor The South Side Group LLC in St. Louis, MO, stepped down from his positions on the National Labor/Management Committee and Research and Education Joint Trust Fund earlier this year.

Mr. Jones spent 14 years on the Roofers' Labor/Management Committee, during which he brought a great deal of business knowledge and insight to the committee process. His dedication to improving recruitment and training of roofers and to marketing the unionized sector to the owner community has been a great asset to our union.

The United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers and Allied Workers would like to thank Mr. Jones for his years of working hard for better labor-management relations. We wish him much success with his future endeavors.



Presenting Douglas Jones a plaque in honor of his 14 years on the Labor/Management Committee are, from left, Dennis P. Marshall Jr., Financial Secretary-Treasurer of Local 2, St. Louis, MO; International President Kinsey Robinson; Doug Jones; Dan Knight, Local 2 Apprentice Coordinator; and Dan O'Donnell, Local 2 Business Manager.



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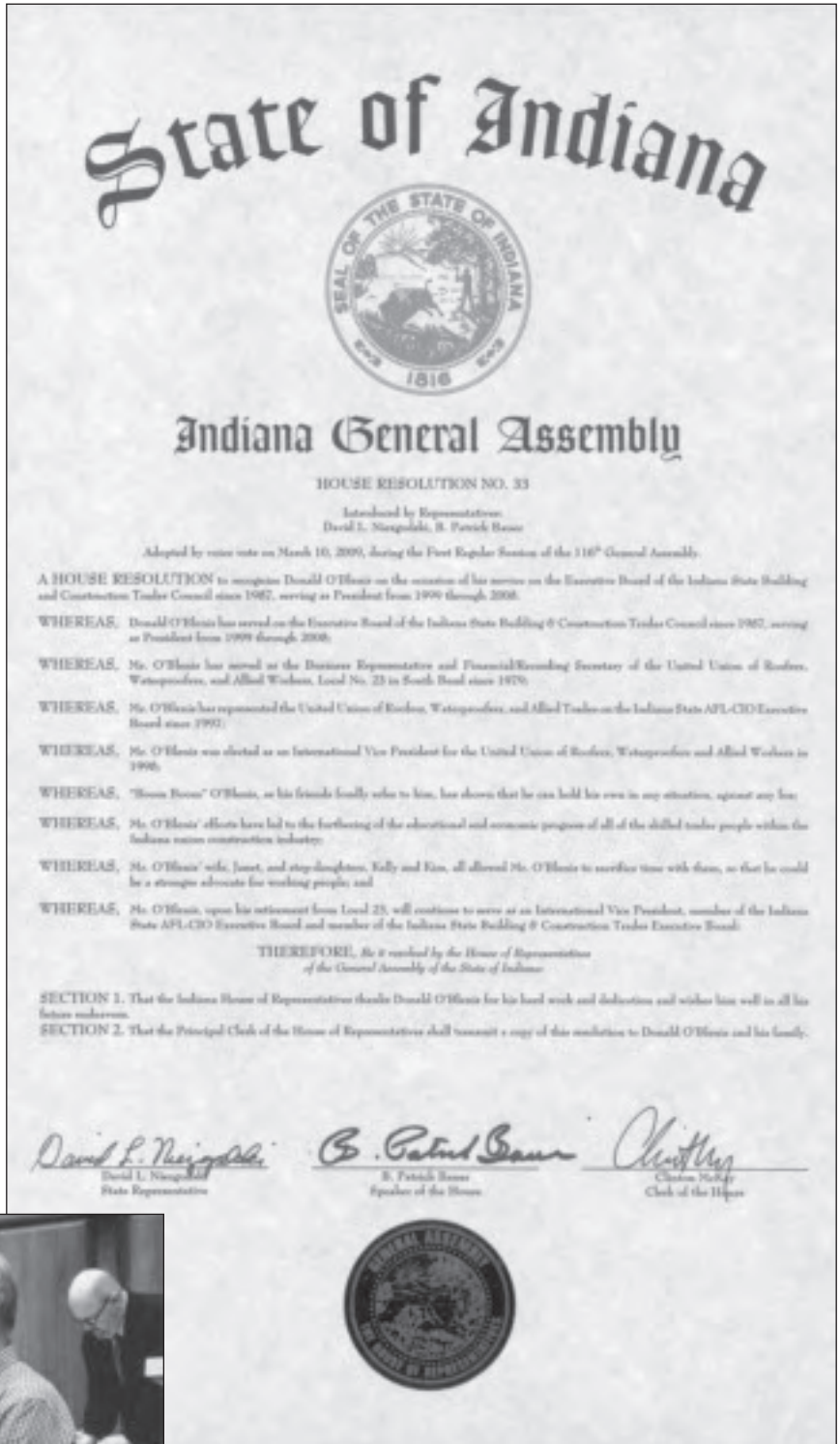
Indiana General Assembly Adopts Resolution Honoring VP O’Blenis

After 30 years of serving as Business Representative and Financial Secretary-Treasurer of Local 23, South Bend, IN, Don O’Blenis is stepping down.

Brother O’Blenis has dedicated his professional life to promoting the cause of labor. In addition to overseeing all day-to-day transactions of Local 23, he has served on the Executive Board of the Indiana State Building and Construction Trades Council since 1987, serving as president from 1999 through 2008. He also has represented the United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers and Allied Workers on the Indiana State AFL-CIO Executive Board since 1979.

In recognition of all Brother O’Blenis has done to further the educational and economic progress of skilled trades people in Indiana, the General Assembly of the State of Indiana passed House Resolution No. 33. Introduced by Representatives David L. Niezgodski and B. Patrick Bauer and adopted by voice vote on March 10, 2009, the resolution thanks Brother O’Blenis for his hard work and dedication and wishes him well in all his future endeavors.

And even though he is stepping down from his duties at Local 23 and his presidency on the building trades executive board, Brother O’Blenis is far from retiring completely: He will continue to serve as International Vice President of the United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers and Allied Workers, and he will remain a member of the Indiana State AFL-CIO Executive Board and member of the Indiana State Building and Construction Trades Executive Board.



Indiana State Legislator David Niezgodski reads through a list of International Vice President Don O’Blenis’s achievements and presents Brother O’Blenis a State of Indiana House Resolution in honor of his retirement from Local 23.



Ray Waldron, Local 96 President and Minn. AFL-CIO Chief, Retires

Minnesota AFL-CIO President Ray Waldron retired Sept. 4 after serving the organization for 10 years. Ray has been a member of Roofers Local 96, Minneapolis, MN, since 1970 and was an organizer for the local in the mid 1970s. In 1978 he went to work for the Minneapolis Building Trades, and he has been working for various labor councils and federations ever since.

As president of the Minnesota AFL-CIO, Brother Waldron served as a strong voice for working families against the anti-union policies of Republican officials, including Minnesota's Governor Tim Pawlenty. He led efforts to overhaul the face of the labor movement in his home state, where he expanded roles for women leaders on the Minnesota AFL-CIO's board and staff and oversaw a major expansion of the federation's political program to establish six regional labor federations statewide.

Brother Waldron has always remained an active member of Local 96 and the Roofers Union. He served as president of the local for over 30 years, and in his position as election chairman he has overseen elections of officers at International conventions for the last 20 years.

A retirement party in Ray's honor was held on August 24 at the Prom Center in Oakdale, MN, and was attended by members of Local 96, the International and affiliated locals of the Minnesota AFL-CIO.



Victor Lucio, President of Local 96, Minneapolis, MN, wishes the best to Ray Waldron in his retirement.



The whole gang from Local 96 at Ray's retirement party, from left: Business Representative Pete Jaworski, International Representative Eric Anderson, Apprenticeship Coordinator Dick Tessier, Business Representative Mike Stinson, Business Manager Rob Snider, Business Representative Vance Anderson, International Secretary-Treasurer (and former Local 96 Business Manager) Robert Danley, Organizer Joe Navejas, retired President Ray Waldron, International President Kinsey Robinson, Vice President Harry Johnson and Business Representative Gene Harris.



Ray Waldron gets a visit from an old friend, retired International Vice President Louis Hackbarth, along with International President Kinsey Robinson.



Nothing but good times for Local 96 President Victor Lucio, honoree Ray Waldron and Franni Franken, wife of Senator Al Franken. Mrs. Franken spoke on behalf of the Senator, who was unable to attend the luncheon.



In Memory **William K. Penrose, Jr.**

Former International Representative William K. “Bill” Penrose, Jr., passed away on May 31, 2009, at the age of 81. Brother Penrose was a member of Local 95, San Jose, CA, for 62 years. During his career he trained apprentices, served in leadership positions and, ultimately, joined the ranks of the International in his position as International Representative.

Brother Penrose followed the path of his father, Bill Sr., who was a 36-year member of Local 95. In 1946 Bill Jr. joined the union and began his apprenticeship by attending the first roofing apprenticeship training class ever held in the State of California. His son and stepson would go on to become journeyman roofers as well.

He learned the trade well, and for 26 years Brother Penrose shared his skills and mentored others in his roles as apprentice instructor and apprentice coordinator. It wasn't long before he became involved in local union politics, and he took positions on Local 95's Executive Board and nego-

tiating committee and was elected vice president of the local. In 1969 he was elected business manager of Local 95, a position he served for 17 years before coming to the International.

As business manager, Brother Penrose became heavily involved and for many years he served as president of the Western Regional District Council of Roofers. For two years he was president of the National District Council of Roofers. His broad experience made him the perfect candidate for International Representative, the position to which he was appointed in 1986 by then-President Earl Kruse. He would go on to serve in that role until 2002, at which point he announced his retirement.

Anyone who has had the opportunity to work alongside Bill Penrose knows his kind smile and gentle laugh. He will be missed by many generations of roofers whose lives he touched either in the field or in one of his many leadership positions. Our deepest condolences go to the family of our long-time friend, Bill.

