



NEWS RELEASE

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Steel Industry Veteran of 42 Years Becomes 2008 Steel Man of the Year

CHICAGO — Dave Raco, a steel industry professional of 42 years and vice president of Tomsin Steel Company, is the Association of Steel Distributors' (ASD) 2008 Steel Man of the Year. This annual ASD award honors one individual who exemplifies leadership, dedication, service and excellence in the steel industry. Raco will be officially recognized and will receive his award at a black-tie event taking place at the ASD Annual Convention on March 29, 2009 at the Renaissance Esmeralda Resort and Spa in Indian Wells, California.

"Dave's commitment to ASD is beyond comparison and he is extremely deserving of this special award," said Tom Smith, ASD president.

Dave Raco is a member of the ASD Board of Directors and has been involved with the association since he became a member in 1988. "ASD has always kept its membership informed, supplying information pertinent to the steel and related industries," said Raco. "It has also afforded us opportunities to spend more time with one another. This, without a doubt, helps your relationships grow. Approximately 80 percent of our [Tomsin Steel] business is conducted with ASD members."

The ASD eastern region director, Ron Chase, can attest to the great relationships that Raco has maintained during the years. He said in a written statement, "Dave's reputation within his many years in the steel industry is one of being forthright and his credibility is unquestioned. As a long-time member of the ASD, Dave has exhibited an unselfish commitment to the association."

Raco became committed to the steel industry 42 years ago when he started at Bethlehem Steel in 1966. For 19 years, he worked in sales while gaining knowledge on various products of the steel business.

In 1985, Raco joined Tomsin Steel Company to enhance his product and industry knowledge. He also developed a new outlook on the steel industry given the company's focus on moving nonprime material. Now, as the vice president of Tomsin Steel Company, Raco continues to be a relevant part of the company's team that enables them to move products.

Dave Raco has accomplished much at Tomsin Steel and the steel industry overall, and offers a few words of advice for those who are looking to enter the industry. "It is an industry that is a vital part of our everyday lives. The steel industry is so diversified, I would suggest that professionals start out in an entry level position, and watch, listen and learn. By doing so, it will give them a better perspective of what they will be looking at down the road."

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About the Association of Steel Distributors

Headquartered in Chicago, the Association of Steel Distributors is a not-for-profit organization, providing the steel distribution industry a forum for ideas exchange and market information. Members have access to the most current industry developments and legislative issues. Regional and national meetings give members numerous opportunities to learn and network in this competitive environment. For more information, please visit www.steeldistributors.org or call ASD Headquarters at 312.644.6610.