

Morrie Stevens Receives Distinguished Service Award

GRAPEVINE, Texas – Morrison “Morrie” M. Stevens Sr. was honored with the American Moving and Storage Association’s 2005 Distinguished Service Award at the association’s annual convention and trade show in Grapevine, Texas, near Dallas, on March 24.

In his 34 years in the industry, his work has been marked by innovation and vision, qualities that have led to his leadership contributions to the advancement of Stevens Worldwide Van Lines and the industry he has devoted his career to advancing.

AMSA president Joe Harrison said “We all owe a special debt to Morrie Stevens for the example he has set and the service he has rendered in the many leadership posts he has held with the association. “I feel honored to have had the opportunity to work closely with him on some of the most difficult challenges that the industry and AMSA have faced.”

Harrison added, “Morrie Stevens’ qualities of leadership are readily apparent to those who have had the privilege of getting to know him, as many in the industry have over the years. We are glad that we have this opportunity to recognize his steadfast service that has helped lead this organization through its tumultuous transition to the 21st century.”

Morrie Stevens’ career in the moving industry began in the 1960s, when he worked for seven summers on Stevens Van Lines’ trucks while attending high school and college. In high school he also managed to find the time to participate in football and wrestling, and served as president of the student body during his junior and senior years.

He went on to attend the University of Michigan, where he studied finance, accounting, risk management and economics. After graduating in 1970, he took the knowledge he had gained to his family’s company, becoming staff accountant.

That same year he married Julie Ann Burnes, and the two went on to raise four children: Angela, Morrison M. Stevens Jr., Lindsay and Peter.

He passed the Certified Public Accountant exam in 1971 and was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army Reserve in 1974, where he first became comfortable working with big guns as a member of the heavy artillery corps.

In 1974 he also won promotion to the post of company controller at Stevens, where his management responsibilities continued to grow and came to include supervision of computer operations and compliance with Department of Transportation regulations.

Three years later he became president of the company, which he continues to lead after joining its ranks more than three decades ago. That Stevens Worldwide Van Lines has been so successful and grown at a steady, healthy pace is a concrete and visible tribute to his leadership abilities.

He also has given back to his industry and community through his many notable leadership contributions. In addition to serving on the board of the National Moving and Storage Association – a predecessor to AMSA – he was the organization’s chairman, vice chairman and treasurer.

In 1997 Stevens was part of a special industry committee that successfully planned and implemented the 1998 merger of NMSA and the American Movers Conference to form AMSA. He also served in top leadership posts with the new organization, including chairman and vice chairman.

Throughout the years Stevens has contributed to advancing the interests of the industry by sharing his knowledge with others through a series of articles he has written for a wide range of professional journals and magazines, including AMSA's monthly membership magazine *Direction*.

In addition, he gave of his time, talents and leadership abilities as a member of the board of directors to AMSA's Executive, Finance, Government Affairs, Government Traffic, Household Goods Carriers' Bureau, Marketing, International and Taxation Affairs Committees.

Stevens also has been active in the Michigan Movers & Warehousemen's Association and has served vice chairman of the Michigan State Chamber of Commerce and chairman of the Saginaw Country Chamber of Commerce. He has been chairman and served on the board of the Delta College Foundation and the boards of the Saginaw Valley State University Foundation, Covenant Healthcare and Citizens Bank of Saginaw.

Stevens was elected to serve for eight years as a supervisor of the Thomas Township in Michigan, and four years as a trustee of the Swann Valley School Board. A member of the Saginaw Valley Traffic Club, Saginaw Country Club and Saginaw Club, he also is an elder of the city's First Presbyterian Church.

When he is not busy leading his company, community and industry, Morrie Stevens manages to find time to hunt, fish, ski and even raise cattle and sheep on his farm.

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The American Moving & Storage Association, home of the ProMover certification program, is the national trade association representing the nation's moving and storage companies, which provide household goods moving services, specialized transportation for sensitive freight such as computers and trade show exhibits, and warehouse storage services. AMSA has approximately 4,000 members, including domestic and international companies and industry suppliers, and supports programs and activities that promote consumer protection, professional development, safety, and operational efficiency. Find out more at ProMover.org and Moving.org.