

AMAP Hall of Fame Lifetime Achievement Award



Mike O'Leary
*Recipient of AMAP Lifetime
Achievement Award*

Hail to the Ambassador: AMAP to Honor Mike O'Leary with Lifetime Achievement Award.

We are very pleased to announce that Michael D. O'Leary is the 2017 honoree for AMAP's Lifetime Achievement Award and will be inducted into the AMAP Modified Asphalt Hall of Fame. There will be a reception in his honor Wednesday evening February 8th during AMAP's Annual Conference.

Mike's career began in 1975 in Terre Haute, Indiana, working for Bituminous Materials, which at the time was a licensee of K.E. McConnaughay. In 1980 he struck out for warmer climes in Texas, where he became VP for Southwest Emulsions and successfully commercialized a wide range of new polymer-modified emulsions. When Southwest Emulsions was acquired by Elf Asphalt in 1983, Mike was appointed to VP of their Western Region, where he was responsible for the creation, development, and expansion of the polymer-modified bitumen market across the western states. His work in the western USA helped usher in the dawn of polymer-modified bitumen usage across North America, as did his leadership at this time in the AASHTO-AGC-ARTBA Joint Cooperation Task Force 31, which created the first specifications for polymer-modified bitumen in 1991. History will show that Task Force 31 was an immediate predecessor to SHRP program and development of the PG grading system and Superpave mixtures. When Koch Materials acquired Elf Asphalt in 1993, Mike became their Western Region Leader, where he continued his mission to expand polymer modified bitumen usage, perhaps best represented by his region's blitzkrieg capture of pavement preservation markets through utilization of the premier polymer-modified Ralumac micro-surfacing and ultra-thin bonded wearing courses (in the latter, both the tack and the overlay components are based on highly modified PMB technologies). In 2004 Mike retired from Koch Materials and was invited by MeadWestvaco (now Ingevity) to come onboard to develop and implement their commercialization strategy for the newly-developed EVOTHERM warm mix asphalt technology. He continues with Ingevity to this day as the ambassador for new product and new technology commercialization programs.

Concurrent with his long history of new technology introduction and successful business development in the private sector, Mike also contributed his unique expertise to identifying and achieving the strategic goals of numerous industry association boards and committees. To highlight just a few of his many noteworthy roles in this regard, Mike served on the NAPA-AI Asphalt Pavement Alliance board for eight years, was the AEMA board president for two years, and served on the board of TRIP as well as many state APA's (including NM, CO, and AZ). He has served numerous state and national industry association committees and some still today benefit from his insight, energy, and special talent for implementing change. A few of these include CAPA, NMAPA, ACNM, Colorado AGC, Texas AGC, TXAPA, and the National AGC.

Throughout his career, Mike has applied his rare brand of diplomacy to reach out to all sectors of the asphalt pavement supply chain (industry, academia, and government) to build the critical mass necessary for acceptance and adoption of technological advancements. For this, he wears the fitting title of “ambassador.” Ambassadors change the course of history not through lofty oratory from the grand stage of an oversold arena but through the more understated influence of amicable conversation about matters of mutual interest.

It is his humble but indefatigable ambassadorship that distinguishes Mike’s influential, career-long advocacy for our industry: four decades of tireless engagement in an unbroken chain of friend-to-friend conversations about the right things to do to build longer-lasting, sustainable asphalt pavements.

Come join us please for this public celebration of Mike O’Leary’s lifetime achievements during the AMAP Annual Conference and Workshop, February 7-9, 2017.

