

Every two years the Mountain States Lumber and Building Material Dealers Association names our "Industry All-Star. This honor, based on the same criteria as our Lumberman of the Year, allows us the opportunity to recognize a member from any of the states we represent to be recognized for making a difference in the association, the industry, and their community.

Our All-Star graduated from Raton High School in 1973, and went on to college in Durango, CO for one year, and then entered Regis College to study business and Economics. He completed his education and his fun college experience in 1977.

As a young boy working for his Grandfather Carmon and father Bob, unloading lumber, cement, insulation, fencing, roofing tar, sand and gravel, picking up nails from the yard, and helping customers in the store or on deliveries, our All-Star has a long tenure in the lumber and building materials industry. He says *"he just knew this career was meant for."*

He said, *"I wanted to be the boss and in January of 1978 I started my career - not as the boss - Stocking, cleaning, fixing, buying, selling and all that goes along with an entry level job in a lumber yard."* He remembers attending the MSLBMDA building material estimating workshop in Denver that, at that time, was still being taught by O.K. Stookesberry.

Our Industry All Star – who now IS the owner of RBS True Value Building Materials - has a long legacy with the MSLBMDA. Raton Builders Supply has been a member of the MSLBMDA since 1978 and his grandfather Carmon Allen was one of the very first members to be named as an Honorary Life Member.

With an upbeat and positive attitude, our Industry All-Star starts every day with the idea that he is "going to make it better than the day before. He is an active and supportive member of the MSLBMDA and of his local community wanting to make a difference in the lives of everyone around him.

Knowing the high standards to be considered for this honor, our All-Star shared with me that he has *"always purposefully lived and worked to achieve these goals without any recognition. To him, it was only the way to live and the best way to contribute to the betterment of everyone."*

*He went on to say that, "even though he lives in a less populated area and serves a smaller market, he hopes his footprint on this earth does make a difference."* He was also honored to be able to accept this award on behalf of *"all the smaller building and lumber owners who work hard, and give a lot."*

It is our privilege to recognize and present this award for the MSLBMDA's 2014-2016 Industry All-Star to Bill Allen, owner – and BOSS - of RBS True Value Building Materials, Raton, NM.