

## REFLECTIONS OF EDWARD “EDDIE” L. RISPONE

**I WAS FORTUNATE TO BE A PART OF A** wonderful family with parents that taught us about faith, family, personal responsibility and the value of work. With six of us kids at home and a stay-at-home mom, we knew in order to have spending money or transportation we would need to find a job during the summers. It was through my older brother, Sammy, I started working in construction during the summers.

When it came to deciding on a career, I enjoyed the construction industry and decided that I wanted to have my own construction company. I then needed to decide whether to pursue the technical craft route or the university degree route. Even though I had always wanted to go to LSU, the challenge of paying for my education made the decision more difficult. Luckily, I made the choice to enroll in LSU’s architecture program

hoping that it would lead me into the construction business. During my sophomore year, Professor Jim Hand informed me that LSU was going to start a construction program, which he knew was my true interest. What I have always liked about the Construction Management program is the relevancy of its courses to our industry, and it gives a person a very good foundation for a career in construction. Today, we have a very active and influential LSU Construction Industry Advisory Council, which many of us helped organize several years ago and continue to support, helping the Construction Management program stay current and relevant.

It is no coincidence that I have a close relationship with three previous recipients of this award and who have strong ties to LSU: Roland Toups, Lane Grigsby and Art Favre. Roland was responsible for



me receiving my first opportunity to manage a large project and presently serves with me on a faith ministry board. Lane has been my mentor and ally in our industry and with my political involvement. Art is a fellow alumnus of the first graduation class in construction, and like the others, a trusted friend and ally in protecting and enhancing our industry and our state.

As I have matured in life and business, I have learned that living a life of faith in God and of principles is most important. I feel blessed to have Jerry and a great team of managers and associates who have the same mind set. And, of course, having a great life partner in my late wife, Phyllis Moberley Rispone, and now Linda Lemoine Rispone along with our children and grandchildren has given my life meaning and purpose.

I am proud to be an LSU graduate and have LSU graduates among many of our managers and associates. I am honored to be recognized with my brother and partner, Jerry Rispone, and appreciate everything he and our team have accomplished, as well as the support they have shown in affecting positive changes in education and the overall quality of life in our state and industry.