

MESSENGER

Winter 2021



MDAVIS

One Source For All
Industrial Construction, Fabrication & Maintenance

A Tribute to John Bonk

Featuring comments from members of our Executive Committee



John and his famous flip phone

Usually in this section of the M. Davis Messenger, a member of our Executive Committee offers thoughts on the previous quarter, describing projects we have going on and where we are headed. In this issue, we felt that we could not address the events of the last three months without taking time to talk about the passing of our Vice President of Operations, John Bonk.



John Bonk operating a crane

John began his career at M. Davis & Sons in 1978 as a Project Engineer. He worked his way up to Project Manager, Executive Vice President, and eventually President and partial owner of the company in 1998. "John never stopped amazing me with his knowledge of a situation in its entirety. Most successful leaders need a team of experts around them to fully grasp the entire situation; John did not. He would bring in his team of experts, listen to them, and then tell them what they needed to be doing—and he was more often right than wrong. He was a brilliant man," remembers CFO Mike Gilmartin.

From the very beginning of his career with M. Davis, John carried our company principles forward. By the time M. Davis moved to a new shop location on Lancaster Avenue in 1979, John had dramatically increased our structural steel business and rigging capabilities.

He was always willing to help any project or person succeed. "I got called in on an emergency outage on the Wednesday night before Thanksgiving. My crane operator had to leave the next day, and I was calling around on Thanksgiving afternoon trying to get another crane operator to come in. My last resort was to call John, as he could run the crane we were using. He literally got up from the Thanksgiving table and came out to run my crane so we could get it done. I called on him for emergencies many times over the years, especially back in the 1990s, and he never said no," remembers our President, John Gooden. In 2016, John started succession planning with the company and took on the role of Vice President of Operations, handing over the duties of President to John Gooden.

"John came to M. Davis when I was still in high school," says Peggy, our CEO. "I remember my dad saying that we needed to have experience and skills that were different than what he and my grandfather knew. John was brave enough to work with three of our five Davis generations and all the family dynamics associated with that. John was not only a valued team member at M. Davis but was part of the Davis family. He was the first non-family member to have a piece of ownership and worked tirelessly to help make the company the strong industry leader it is today. Over the years, we had to make many tough decisions, but we were always on the same page when it came down to what was important and how we wanted to run our business."

"The needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few."

John always said that "The needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few," we take this into consideration with every decision we make for our Team Members.

"John worked tirelessly to help people succeed"

Our Chairman, Charles Davis, states that "One of the most important characteristics of John Bonk was his compassion and respect for our Team Members. He had no ego and was approachable by anyone. He helped the Team at all levels no matter where, when, or how. John worked tirelessly to help people succeed."



John Gooden presents John Bonk with the Tyler Way Building Dedication

Part of John's legacy is his dedication to consistently developing our people. John's succession planning efforts helped us take aspects of his job and divide them into responsibilities for our existing Team Members.



M. Davis Executive Committee

Project Manager Scott Dolor will be transitioning into the role of Operations Manager. John Sorantino and Gary Haller will be taking on a lot of the rigging work that was John's area of expertise.

Our ability to make these transitions as seamless as possible is a testament to John's dedication to his team. John was a pillar of M. Davis & Sons, and we will work hard to keep his legacy of integrity and service to others alive. ■

Did You Know?

M. Davis Is Certified for UL142 Tank Fabrication and Repairs!

M. Davis & Sons is certified in the repair and fabrication of single-wall, rectangular UL142 tanks. These tanks offer an economical and safe solution for the storage of flammable and combustible liquids at your chemical plant, transportation facility, or industrial site. Compared to their cylindrical counterparts, a rectangular design offers a less expensive option with greater space savings.

In addition to the standard carbon steel, M. Davis also offers an option with stainless steel, which acts as a protective layer against corrosion and rust. Each tank is manufactured to UL142 standards in a single-wall configuration, with or without supports. Every tank undergoes performance and production line tests and meets construction requirements dictated by UL.

Our Fabrication Shop team works to ensure that every tank is designed and built for safety and security within your application, to meet the demanding needs of your industry. We fabricate every tank with the goal of reducing the risk associated with these liquids, and we follow the strict regulations set forth by UL142 to ensure safe operation of these tanks.

Ready to learn more? Email sales@mdavisinc.com to learn how our Fabrication Shop team can be of assistance with your next project! ■



150 Years With M. Davis

Looking Back While Looking Forward

As we have mentioned, M. Davis & Sons celebrated the huge milestone of 150 years in business in 2020. Obviously for us and many others, this year did not go exactly as planned. We had to cancel many events our Team and customers look forward to, and we suffered the great loss of a key player on our team, John Bonk. However, as our Chairman, Charles Davis, has stated, "We are confident in our future, our capabilities, and our Team to lead us to success in the years to come."

While our 150th year was a challenging one, we are proud of the efforts we have been making to expand. We formalized our sustainability efforts and are excited about opportunities to partner with revolutionary innovators to influence environmental sustainability for the next generation of industrial construction, fabrication, and maintenance. As we venture into renewable energy and help our customers in their pledges to become carbon free, we are leveraging our partnerships in industry to become part of the solution—not just in carbon-free energy, but also clean water and pharmaceutical production. Our specialized experience will continue to drive ingenuity and greater environmental consciousness in our next 150 years.

We have expanded our work in the energy, water, and food and beverage markets. In addition, through our work with RAPID (Rapid Advancement in Process Intensification Deployment) and NIIMBL (National Institute for Innovation in Manufacturing Biopharmaceuticals), which focus on process intensification and biopharmaceutical manufacturing, respectively, we find ourselves on the cutting edge of these new markets as well, as they focus on delivering their products using modular systems. We continue to bring new customers and projects under our care by providing One Source for All technical and trade solutions.

The year 2020 has reinforced our ability to pivot and gracefully handle change. Change has been the one constant in the current environment, and we are lucky that our team is great at managing it. We would say that we are going into our 151st year with a plan, but as we have all seen this year, sometimes our plans are forced to change. What we will say is this: We are looking forward to 2021, our 151st year, and all the challenges, successes, and changes it will bring. We will continue to provide our customers with the Craftsmanship, Character, and Commitment they have come to know and expect from every M. Davis & Sons project. ■

ABC Delaware Excellence in Construction Award



New lab and office space completed for W.L. Gore

M. Davis & Sons received an Excellence in Construction award from ABC Delaware for our fast-paced emergency rigging and installation of sea containers for W.L. Gore & Associates. "This program recognizes the best of the best in the construction industry in Delaware and jobs our members do in surrounding states," said ABC Delaware President Ed Capodanno. The program is open to general contractors or subcontractors, and submissions represent a variety of work including mechanical, electrical, construction management, site/civil, and others.

Gore was well underway in their project to convert existing production space into usable office space in Elkton, MD, and was looking to source a cost-efficient and more sustainable way to create the new space. They chose to contract with SG Blocks, a company that uses recycled shipping (sea) containers to create new structures such as homes, offices, or storefronts that are modular, portable, strong, and scalable. Gore purchased nine 20-foot sea containers, which came ready to install, complete with glass walls, electrical wiring, and flooring.

This project required intense precision. The containers needed to be outfitted with glass, wiring, and lighting, and all first-floor units had their floors removed so that the existing concrete floor at the Gore location would be the final flooring. Gore needed the new office and lab spaces to be fully functional within a matter of days after delivery, and there was simply no room for error.

In addition to contracting with SG Blocks, Gore called on M. Davis to fabricate and install the necessary stairs and handrails, which had to be placed in the existing space

before the sea containers could be placed. Already being familiar with the Gore space involved proved to be very helpful for M. Davis crews. With M. Davis fabricating the stairs and handrails and SG Blocks providing the sea containers, the project seemed to be moving along well.

However, one week before the sea containers were to be received at the site, SG Blocks notified Gore that the agreed upon deadline for installation (which included off-loading, rigging, and moving the units) could not be met. SG Blocks simply could not get installers to the site.

W.L. Gore frantically called on M. Davis & Sons. Our project team received their urgent request on January 3, 2019. We mobilized and were prepared to handle the crane, rigging, movement, and installation of the modules by the time the sea containers were delivered on Friday, January 10. Our team sprang into action so the work could be completed before the end of the day on Sunday, January 12, because Gore absolutely needed to resume business operations on Monday morning. Not only were we able to complete the project successfully, but the units were installed by 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 11. SG Blocks commented that this "was one of the fastest and cleanest installations they have seen."

M. Davis & Sons is proud to accept an Excellence in Construction award from ABC Delaware and congratulates all other winners on this great accomplishment! ■



M. Davis and W.L. Gore team members that got the job done!

Spreading Holiday Cheer with Stockings for Soldiers

This year, M. Davis & Sons participated in our fifth year of Stockings for Soldiers. Stockings for Soldiers—Delaware began in 2003 and was founded to help improve the morale and welfare of members of our Armed Forces. Each year, holiday stockings are sewn and filled with special items for our troops. Since its inception, the program has sent almost 120,000 stockings to U.S. troops. A touch of home along with a personal message of support can go a long way in reminding our troops of our appreciation for all that they do.

This year's goal was 5,000 stockings full of items such as crew socks, mole skin, drink mixes, gum, granola bars, and hand warmers. Stockings are dropped off to the Stocking Store in Brandywine Town Center, and volunteers start working on October 5 to meet their mailing deadline of December 4. M. Davis & Sons placed a donation bin at four of our shops, including our headquarters on Germay Drive, and our donations were dropped off at the Stocking Store on November 11. We look forward to participating every year and sending our troops some holiday joy from home! ■



3 grocery carts full of goodies for our troops!



Stockings for Soldiers

Ready to learn more about our services and capabilities?

*Get in touch with us: **1-800-91-DAVIS***

sales@mdavisinc.com

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