Executive Secretaries – Thank You

by Charles McGarvey
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The current Roofing Metal Heating Association (RMHA) is a 122-year-old association comprising roofing contractors and various industry associates. Recently, Mike Donnelly of Donnelly Roofing, now the President of the 6th-generation family roofing company, was kind enough to review his family's records of the RMHA and found the 1953 50th Anniversary Banquet Issue of the Trade News.

Currently, this is the earliest issue of the Trade News, or for that matter, any records of the past RMHA. Within that issue was the statement that past RMHA records were lost in a fire, so I doubt any other records will be found. However, what amazed me in the 50th Anniversary Banquet Issue was Joe Spitzer being listed as the Executive Secretary. I knew Joe for several years in the early, mid, and late 1980's, when I was an RMHA Member, Director, and Management Trustee with the Local 30B pension funds.

I talked with Mike about my surprise that Joe Spitzer served as the Executive Secretary from 1953 until his death in 1993. Mike even thought that somewhere in his office, he had seen a 1949 issue of the Trade News listing Joe as the Executive Secretary. That means Joe was the Executive Secretary of the RMHA for over 44 years. Can you imagine how many hundreds, if not thousands, of RMHA members and associates Joe was meeting and talking with?

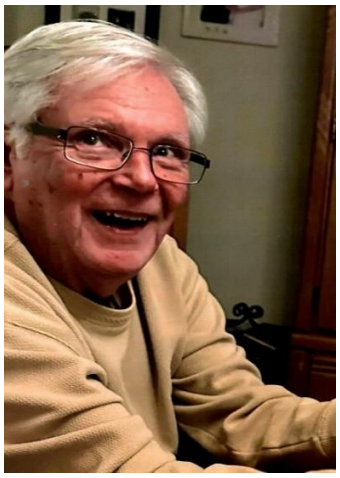
My memory of Joe Spitzer is the same as my memory of Joe Brown, our past Executive Secretary who recently passed away: "He was a calm, quiet, and respectful person. I don't know if he ever knew what anger meant."

When Joe Spitzer passed away, he already had someone ready to take his place as the RMHA's Executive Secretary. That person was Delores Neveil, who served as the Executive Secretary from 1993 to 2010. She was Executive Secretary for 17 years, and Mike Donnelly, President of the RMHA, named her "The First Lady of Philadelphia Roofing." I never met Dolores, but I spoke with her numerous times by phone as I began writing articles that she had approved for publication in the Trade News. Thank you, Delores!!

When Delores retired in 2010, Joe Brown took over as the RMHA Executive Secretary. Joe served as the Executive Secretary for 15 years, from 2010 to 2025, until his recent passing. Anyone who met Joe met a friend and a person who was respectful to everyone he ever met.

These three individuals: Joe Spitzer, Delores Nevil, and Joe Brown served the RMHA for over 75 years as the Executive Secretaries (E.S.). How many members have come and gone, yet these three individuals keep things going. Our association owes a great deal to all three.

Delores Neveil
E.S. 1993 - 2010



Joe Spitzer
E.S. 1949 - 1993

Joe Brown
E.S. 2010 - 2025

Pictures supplied by
Mike Donnelly of Donnelly Rfg.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charlie McGarvey