

December 2015

2015 Builder of the Year and HBA Hall of Fame Inductions Announced

Raleigh, N.C. - The Home Builders Association of Raleigh – Wake County (HBA) inducted Tom Gipson and Brooks Gullede into the Hall of Fame on December 3 and presented Warren Smith with the 2015 Builder of the Year Award.

“The Home Builders Association of Raleigh-Wake County seeks to recognize the top leaders in the home building industry,” said Glenn White, 2015 president of the HBA and president of Complete Construction Company, Inc. “These leaders have shaped the association over the years through their time, talent, and service.”

The HBA presented Warren Smith, president of L and L of Raleigh and the 2010 Home Builders Association of Raleigh – Wake County (HBA) president, with the 2015 Builder of the Year. Smith was chosen because of his involvement, and participation within the association. He demonstrated high professional standards and continues to play an active part within the organization. As a member for over 10 years, Smith has sponsored dozens of new members into the HBA and has over 882 Spike credits (Spikes are points for sponsoring new members). Most recently he took on the project of building a new home to be sold where 100 percent of the proceeds will go to the HBA Charitable Foundation. Smith believes that to be a good leader, you have to be a great follower.

The annual installation ceremony also serves as an induction for Hall of Fame recipients. Members from the HBA Board of Directors who are part of a special task force nominate and select worthy recipients for induction into the Hall of Fame. For 2015, two men were chosen and presented with the HBA Hall of Fame medal during the event last December.

Here is a glimpse of the accomplishments to the industry by these two individuals:

Tom Gipson

Tom Gipson is a man who was passionate about providing homes for those who were in need. Gipson has been on numerous boards including the North Carolina Museum of Art, Lutheran Ministries which provides interim housing for the disadvantage, Grace Lutheran Church, HBA of Raleigh-Wake County Board and is a Life Director at the NAHB Board level.

He has won numerous awards including Parade of Homes, HBA Builder of the Year, MAME Building Company of the Year, Raleigh Chamber of Commerce Small Business Man of the Year, Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Leader of the Year, the Hearthstone Humanitarian Award and the National Housing Endowment Builder Achievement for Outstanding Community Service.

Gipson is now the largest all time giver to NC Home Builders Association BUILD-PAC. He is best known for starting the national Habitat Builder Blitz Program. In 2002, he and several Raleigh builders completed 12 homes. The next year they built 24. In 2006, he led the effort to build 459 homes in 130 communities in one week. Even in 2008 during the recession, his leadership and determination made sure that 279 homes were built across our country. He is now involved in a new project of providing housing for those with disabilities. In addition, he was voted as the Ultimate Volunteer by the ABC Show, *The View* in 2009.

Brooks Gullede

Brooks Gullede has a wide understanding, knowledge and experience of the building industry. In the late 1970's, Brooks joined the HBA. Over the years, he has served on the HBA Board of Directors, the Public Relations Committee, the Government Affairs Committee, the NC Housing Hall of Fame Board of Governors, the NC Building Code Council, the National Association Board of Directors, and has been one of the local Top 25 most active Spike Club members. He was HBA President in 1991, and has been recognized several times over the years including a Distinguished Past President and Parade of Homes Awards.

In addition, he was appointed to the Citizen's Advisory Committee for Wake County Schools Facilities Planning and Funding, and has presented papers to Wake County Commissioners regarding school impact fees arguments.

About Warren Smith

Warren Smith, a custom home builder, started L and L of Raleigh in 2005 and currently builds about 40 homes per year in Raleigh and Cary.

A Raleigh native, Smith attended Atlantic Christian College where he won the Frank F. Hargear Memorial Award for National Undergraduate of the Year. Smith was president of Alpha Sigma Phi Fraternity and of the Greek Inter-Fraternity Council. He received a BS in Business Administration in 1993. Smith worked as a construction superintendent for Sunstar Homes and Homes by Dickerson between 1994-1998. He started Kerr-Smith Homes and Land, Inc. in 1999 and served as President of the company. He then sold the company and started L and L of Raleigh in 2005.

He was the 2006 HBA Homebuilder of the Year, and the 2006 HBA and National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) Spike of the Year. Smith served on the HBA and NAHB Board of Directors from 2006 – 2009, and has served on several committees as the local, state and national levels during that same time period.

Since 1999, Smith has built over 300 homes in the Triangle. Smith has won over 20 gold, silver, and bronze awards in the Annual HBA Parade of Homes, including numerous "perfect scores by the judges."

About the HBA

The Home Builders Association of Raleigh-Wake County (HBA) is the voice of the home building industry throughout Wake County, and provides members opportunities for business development, education, professional growth, networking and community involvement. The membership, comprised of builders, remodelers, developers, and sales & marketing professionals, is affiliated with the National Association of Home Builders, which represents over 120,000 member companies nationwide. Currently the HBA is the second largest home builders association in the country. The members of the HBA are building excellence together for the neighborhoods and communities of tomorrow. Find more information at www.hbawake.com.

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