

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: May 7, 2025

For additional information, contact:
Tiffany Tononi McNamara
Executive Director
Plan New Hampshire
(603) 452.PLAN
tiffany@plannh.org

**GARY ABBOTT TO BE HONORED WITH 29th ANNUAL
NEW HAMPSHIRE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY ETHICS
AWARD**

Gary Abbott, retired Executive Vice President of the Associated General Contractors of New Hampshire (AGC NH), has been named as the recipient of the Twenty-Ninth annual New Hampshire Construction Industry Ethics Award. The award honors the “individual, business, or organization that, through words and deeds, best demonstrates a commitment to upholding the highest ethical standards in construction.” Gary will be presented with this prestigious recognition at the Associated General Contractors of New Hampshire Awards Dinner scheduled to take place on May 29, 2025, at the Derryfield Country Club, Manchester, NH.



A native of Concord, New Hampshire, Gary laid the foundation for his career with a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration, specializing in Accounting, from Franklin Pierce College. After gaining valuable experience at Blue Cross & Blue Shield of NH, he found his true calling at AGC NH, where he dedicated over four decades. During his extensive tenure, Gary helped shape New Hampshire's commercial construction landscape and transformed AGC NH into a highly regarded organization representing the interests of general contractors, subcontractors, equipment dealers, and suppliers. His expertise in government relations enabled him to collaborate with state agencies and legislative leaders to craft policies that strengthened New Hampshire's construction sector. Through his leadership, AGC NH evolved into a comprehensive trade organization that not only advocates for its members but also promotes sound business practices across the industry.

The breadth of his influence was celebrated at his retirement celebration in May 2024 at the Grappone Center in Concord. Governor Chris Sununu joined over 100 industry leaders, colleagues, and friends to honor Gary's contributions. The evening featured multiple recognitions, including a gubernatorial commendation, an AGC of America distinguished service plaque, and a special award from the NH DOT Highway Specifications Committee.

Gary's reputation in the NH Construction Industry truly needs no introduction. A year after his retirement as Executive Vice President of AGC NH, the supporting nomination letters received by our committee overwhelmingly reflected the echoes of then Governor Sununu's commendation. Adam Bates, of Weaver Brothers Construction Company, one of New Hampshire's leading and premier road and earthwork contractors in Bow, NH, captured this widespread admiration: "Although I wish him the best in retirement, I know I don't stand alone in saying that he will be truly missed. There are many hard-working individuals in this industry, but I cannot name one person who has devoted themselves to the overall wellbeing and success of all aspects of construction in New Hampshire like Gary Abbott has throughout his career." Adam continues, "He was a tremendous asset for all of AGC NH's membership, whether it be from his countless hours lobbying for us in Concord, or by taking the time to actually understand and methodically resolve issues brought by members." Forty-one years of service and leadership will garner this sort of resounding appreciation, especially when exemplified by consistent demonstration of doing what is right for the people and businesses of New Hampshire.

Ryan Audley, of R.S. Audley of Bow, NH, one of New Hampshire's largest and respected Heavy Contractors, shared similar sentiments. "Always with a measured approach, Gary has had to navigate member concerns with state agencies ranging from NHDOT, NHDES, Fish and Game, DMV, State Fire Marshall, and the State University System, amongst others. He has had to balance concerns between member firms. He has had to navigate political leanings, preferences, and beliefs in the best interest of the AGC members." Ryan underscored the complexity of doing so ethically and with utmost professionalism, stating, "All the while maintaining a neutral and measured position, in the interest of the constituent members of the AGC with integrity and poise." Ryan has worked closely with Gary for the last ten years of his tenure with AGC and learned not only how to navigate the intricacies of the NH legislative landscape, but how to do so appropriately. Ryan concludes, "He has impacted every sub industry and firm whether they know it or not, and he has done it while conducting himself with the highest degree of professionalism and ethics."

The accolades continue. “Gary’s contributions to our industry and community make him highly deserving of this prestigious recognition. His unwavering commitment to excellence and ethical leadership are qualities that set him apart and reflect the very essence of this award,” Matt Connors, President of Gemini Electric in Auburn, NH commends. Gemini Electric is a prior NH Award for Excellence in Construction recipient, and Matt is a Businessman of the Year in NH recipient and stands by their similar ethical motto of “The only way we will do the job for you is the right way!” Matt continued, “It is my honor to recommend Gary Abbott for the Ethics Award in recognition of his exceptional career and outstanding contributions to New Hampshire’s construction industry. Having known Gary for my 15-year tenure on the Board of Directors of AGC NH, I have consistently been inspired by his leadership, integrity, and dedication to shaping the future of our state.” Industry peers, and state representatives alike attest to Gary’s pursuit to do what’s best for his membership, and also for the state at large. The concert of voices providing testament to Gary’s character resonate deeply. Words such as unwavering, vision, champion, commitment, and the do-right-by-others attitude have him placed on a pedestal of ethical leadership that warrants following.

Past Ethics Award recipient Rob Prunier, Executive Vice President of Harvey Construction Company, offers: “Having witnessed Gary’s incredible contributions to New Hampshire’s built environment over the years, I can confidently say that he exemplifies the highest standards of integrity and professionalism that this award seeks to honor.” Harvey Construction Company, one of NH’s prestigious Construction Management firms in Bedford, NH, has a motto rooted in similar core values and principles, which is apparent whether you visit their website, a jobsite, or walk the halls of their corporate headquarters: “Integrity. Passion. Teamwork.” Gary Abbott is an esteemed representative of these principles. Rob elaborates, “Gary’s decades of services have helped shape a stronger, more resilient construction industry, and his reputation as a principled leader and advocate for our profession is unparalleled.” Rob’s support for Gary in this honor is resoundingly similar for all that nominated him. Ron Severino, President of Severino Trucking Company, yet another industry leading and well respected construction firm in NH joined in on the support for Gary, stating, “Having spent many years with Gary on the board of AGC, he has always dealt with contractors, vendors, and state officials with much respect and always did what was best for all parties.” Ethics permeates action – and it is easy and quick to spot in others that are always leading by example and doing the right thing. People take notice, and Gary’s forty-one years of service are the pinnacle of what this means.

In addition to a nice commemorative plaque, the award carries with it a \$2,000 donation to the recipient's charity of choice. Gary has chosen to donate to the NH Good Roads Association Scholarship Programs which include the William Weaver Memorial Scholarship, the Roger Provost Memorial Scholarship, and the NHGR Construction Scholarship.

The New Hampshire Construction Industry Ethics Award was established and is underwritten by David W. Wood, a former nationally recognized writer, publisher, and marketing consultant specializing in the construction industry. His newsletter, *Words from Woody*, won 25 awards, including being a three-time recipient of the Construction Writers Association's prestigious T. Randolph Russell Award. In 2005, Wood was presented with the Silver Hard Hat, that organization's highest honor. In 2018, Plan NH, an organization based out of Portsmouth, NH, took over the leadership and heralding of this prestigious award.

Previous recipients of the award have been William J. "Bill" Clark, of Clark Masonry Construction, Milford, N.H.; William C. "Bill" Walker, of The MacMillin Company, Keene, N.H.; Samuel Audley, of R.S. Audley, Inc., Bow, N.H.; Levi Ladd, of L.K. Ladd, Inc., Concord, N.H.; Jack McDevitt Jr., of McDevitt Trucks, Inc., Manchester, N.H.; Tom Avallone, of Cobb Hill Construction, Concord, N.H.; Jim Morrill, of Morrill Construction, North Haverhill, N.H.; Mark & Rick Charbonneau, of Continental Paving, Londonderry, N.H.; Leighton A. White of Leighton A. White Inc., Milford, N.H.; Rich Lambert, of Procon, Inc., Hooksett, N.H.; Tom Palazzi, of The Palazzi Corporation, Hooksett, N.H.; Ron Severino, Severino Trucking, Candia, N.H.; Paul Morin, Tarkka Homes, Weare, N.H.; Bruss Construction, Bradford, N.H.; John Zahr, Harvey Construction Corp., Bedford, N.H.; Mark Bates, Weaver Brothers Construction, Bow, N.H.; Tom Morin, Morin's Landscaping, Hollis, N.H.; Dan Hazelton, Anderson Equipment Company, Manchester, N.H.; Richard Uchida, Hinckley Allen, Concord, N.H.; Frank Lemay, Milestone Engineering and Construction, Concord, N.H.; Dan Church, The Rowley Agency, Concord, NH; Gary Bertram, Hutter Construction, New Ipswich, NH; Bob Longchamps, Longchamps Electric, Manchester, NH; Gerry Perron, Granite State Plumbing & Heating, New Boston, NH; Richard M. Piper, R.M. Piper, Plymouth, NH; Sean Toomey, State Fire Marshal, Concord, NH; Gary Abbott, Associated General Contractors of New Hampshire, Bow, NH.

###

Plan NH is a non-profit organization comprised of planners, designers, builders, and other members across New Hampshire that share a vision to improve and preserve the state's communities. Since 1989, Plan NH's mission has been to foster excellence in planning, design, and development of New Hampshire's built environment. For more information about Plan NH, visit www.plannh.org.