

# SPACECON

## Employee Service Awards

### 4th Quarter Anniversaries

#### Years of Service

Jeremy M. Duerksen	1
Shaun M. Dyer	2
Joe Scalora	3
Nicole Yelinski	3
Belinda Seale	4
Michael R. Lechnir	4
Ambrozha Jacox	6
Brian K. Baumgardner	9
Ken King	10
Bryan Lewis	13
Jerry Scheuer	15
Gene Embry	22

“Thank you for your continued dedication. We recognize and celebrate our employees years of service to Spacecon. Congratulations!”

- Robert Yelinski  
Spacecon Region  
President

### Welcome New Hires!

James L. Severance Jr.  
Daniel S. Sherman



Colorado

Colorado Springs — Denver — Fort Collins

### Let's get social...

Take photos of your jobsite, co-workers, and events for work!

Then email them, along with a blurb about the photo,  
to [nyelinski@spacecon.com](mailto:nyelinski@spacecon.com)

Next, like us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram to see your photos!



# SPACECON Quarterly Measure

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JANUARY 21, 2019

## Country Club Towers II Earns Merit Award

Associated Builders and Contractors Rocky Mountain Chapter (ABCRMC) celebrated the exceptional work of member companies at the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Excellence in Construction Awards on Friday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at Wings Over the Rockies Air and Space Museum in Lowry, Colorado. Over 250 members and guests attended the Top Gun-themed event, enjoying the festive and celebratory atmosphere.



Each year judges evaluate the projects based on criteria including factors such as complexity, unusual challenges or problems overcome, innovative techniques or programs, value-engineering, safety records, and owner satisfaction. Scores in these areas determine a project's award level: Award of Excellence (first place), Award of Merit (second place), or Letter of Commendation (third place).

Country Club Towers II was submitted this year by Bryan Lewis. Country Club Towers II is a new twin tower 32 story apartment building at 1001 E. Bayaud Ave. The \$190 million project has 552 luxury apartments with an unobstructed view of downtown Denver, the Denver Country Club, and our beautiful mountains. The units range in size from 615 sq ft to 1,192 sq ft. Country Club Towers II won a Merit Award (second place) and has been submitted to compete at the ABC National Competition which will be held in March 2019.

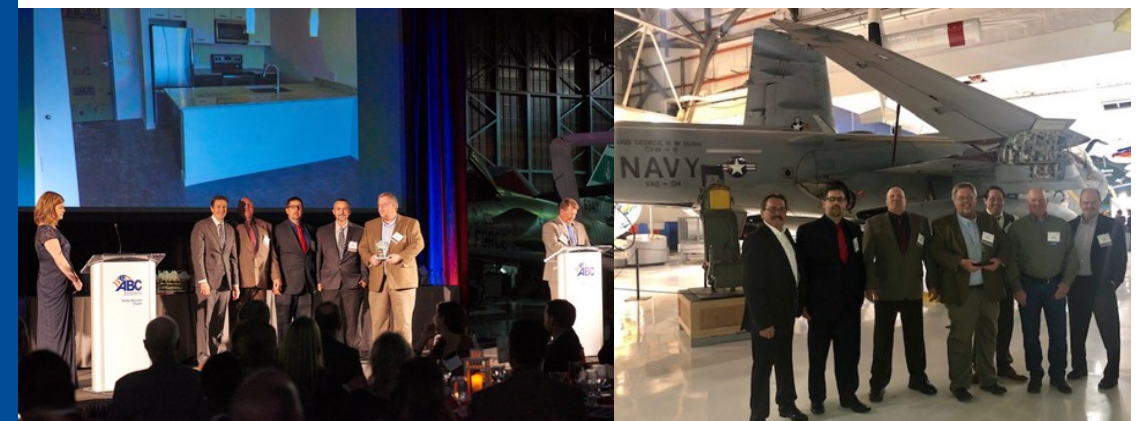
**Congratulations and Good luck to the entire Country Club Towers II team!**

### In this Issue

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### 2018 Awards Received

- Swinerton Construction – Excellence in Complex Construction
- Haselden Construction – I Got Your 6
- ABC – Accredited Quality Contractors
- ABC – Excellence in Construction Merit Award
- ABC – Step Award (Safety Training Evaluation Process, Gold Level)



Brian Losee, Carlos Miramontes, Mike Lechnir, and Bryan Lewis received the awards at the 2018 Annual Excellence in Construction Awards celebration.



# Monarch Tops Out!

## Monarch Casino Resort Spa Flies Beam to the 23rd Floor as Part of Traditional Topping Off Ceremony

Many of us, if not all of us, have attended a “topping out” ceremony, but have you ever asked yourself where the tradition came from or how it got here?

Putting the last structural steel beam or final roofing piece in place on a building is a project milestone. Many contractors place an evergreen on top of the building, which often gets the Christmas touch during the holiday season. The evergreen usually stays on top until the building is finished.

This construction celebration has ancient roots. The most cited story credits pre-Dark Age Scandinavian cultures with the practice of placing a tree on the top of a new building to appease the tree dwelling spirits of their ancestors that had been displaced, or for cutting trees for lumber (Teutonic Tribes) to ward off evil spirits (originators of the Christmas tree tradition).

In those days, everyone pitched in to help a farmer build a new house or barn. The community would contribute their labor until the ridge pole, the highest horizontal beam, was in place. At that point, to express his appreciation, the farmer would have a party for all his friends. An evergreen tree was placed on the highest point of the structure for good luck and to indicate to all that the building was nearing completion and a celebration was in order. The practice migrated to England with Scandinavian invaders in the mid to late 8th century and took root there.

English architect William of Wykeham attended one of the earliest known ceremonies on March 28, 1393 for the Winchester School. While English poet Geoffrey Chaucer, who died in 1400, referred to topping out ceremonies in his writing. In 14th century England, it was customary to put a yew tree branch at the highest point of the building to keep evil spirits at bay. Today, ceremony organizers in England continue this long-held tradition using sprig of yew or, more sustainably, by presenting an evergreen sapling to be planted in the landscape.

Medieval records show that the personal flag of the structure’s owner would be hoisted to the top of the building once the shell was complete. According to other historical documents, a weathercock or vane was placed at the summit. While constructing great mansions, builders would fly colored flags from the roof to show they needed more materials. Different colors were used to represent stone, brick and timber, a possible forerunner to the practice of using the state or stars and stripes in this country today.

But there are competitive tales to the Scandinavian thread. There is evidence to suggest that in 2700 AD, the Egyptians used a live tree in a topping out ceremony for the country’s first stone building. Elsewhere, the story goes that a man was buried in the Great Wall of China’s foundations after builders completed one of the sprawling structure’s sections in 200 BC. According to other sources, 10,000 people had to be buried beneath the wall, but rather than meet with this grim requirement, one person was named "Workman 10,000" and sacrificed accordingly. This doesn't carry a lot of validity, however archaeologists have discovered human remains buried under sections of the wall. They were more likely to have died as a result of accidents or disease than as a sacrificial offering.



Today's topping out ceremony is celebrated around the world. In Brazil, branches and leaves are attached to the building and the workforce eat, and drink as part of a ritual known as Fiesta da Cemieira. Meanwhile, in Germany, laurels are hung around the chimney of a residence to acknowledge the 'birth' of a new building and to remember those who may



the architecture and engineering firms, the owner or representatives of the owning organization, donors, and any VIPs that are invited. The ceremony is often parlayed into a media event for public relations purposes.

While the ceremony itself has no standard agenda, it usually includes the placing of an evergreen tree upon the structure to symbolize growth and bring luck. State and national flags are often raised atop the structure. It may take place during lunch time and can include a catered meal and entertainment. In large building construction, the topping out beam may be signed by the ironworker crew, construction and design team, or by local dignitaries depending on the importance of the building.

## Celebrating Our Own Building

On Wednesday, November 28, 2018 — Monarch Casino Resort Spa celebrated a major construction milestone: reaching its final height of 23 stories. To celebrate this historic achievement, Monarch Casino Resort Spa joined with the City of Black Hawk and PCL Construction to host a traditional topping off ceremony featuring a beam signing by all crew members. Attached to the beam, an evergreen tree covered in holiday lights was raised to the top of the building and visible to Black Hawk visitors as they enter the city on Highway 119. The construction of Monarch Casino’s new hotel and spa has employed more than 2,000 locals over the past two years, and on any given day, there are more than 450 construction workers on site. Additionally, crews have performed more than 756,000 work-hours on the project to date.

The Monarch team led by Field Superintendent Nestor Acosta includes James Aguilar, Leopoldo Lopez, Humberto Gonzalez, Juan Miramontes, Fernando De Loera, German Gutierrez, and Eduwiges Quintana are progressing on work up through the 17<sup>th</sup> floor in different phases.

In the Podium (1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> floor), finish on ceilings and soffits is halfway complete on the second floor with specialty ceiling package getting ready to begin. Ceiling and soffit framing is starting on the fourth and fifth floors.

The Tower (6<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> floors), has framing in progress on the 14<sup>th</sup> floor, while one siding of walls and insulation are beginning on the 9<sup>th</sup> floor. Currently the schedule has the building being occupied beginning in October of this year.

have died during construction so they might have eternal life, whilst the Danish decorate the roof of the building with evergreen garlands, and in Jordan, builders hold a religious ceremony followed by a feast.

Another story has a more modern angle: and suggests that when high rises were first built in this country, contractors employed Native American iron workers whose prowess in steel erection has become legendary. It is said they decorate the top of the building believing no man-made structure should be taller than a tree.

Whatever the slant, all stories say the evergreen symbolizes positive things, good luck for future occupants, continued growth, a safe job, and celebrates an important achievement in a building’s construction.

Today, a non-religious but formal ceremony is often held to commemorate this milestone in the construction of a building. All tradesmen on the job usually join in the celebration as well as the supervisors, representatives of the owning organization, donors, and any VIPs that are invited.

