



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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BEMA Honors Candy Taylor and Bob Kirkpatrick with Lifetime Achievement Awards

Overland Park, KS - BEMA awarded two lifetime achievement awards this year on Sunday, March 1, at BEMA's Winter Summit in Chicago. The recipients were **Bob Kirkpatrick**, retired president of Rondo, Incorporated, and **Candy Taylor**, president and owner of Taylor-Made Systems, Inc.

Kirkpatrick and Taylor are longtime baking equipment industry professionals, and, as active BEMA members, have helped make the association what it is today.

Bob Kirkpatrick was president of Rondo, Inc., for 15 years and has been a member of BEMA since 1981. He's worked on many association committees, including BEMATech, IBIE, and the executive committee. He was president of BEMA in 1998.

Hans van der Maarel, who presented Kirkpatrick with the award, said that, through the years, Kirkpatrick has been instrumental in creating financial independence for BEMA, increasing membership by 50 percent, and improving BEMA's relationship with the ABA (American Bakers Association).

In addition to his work for BEMA, Kirkpatrick has served on the American Institute of Baking board of directors and the Retail Bakers of America advisory board.

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Kirkpatrick said that he considered his work with BEMA and other groups to be his civic responsibility.

“If you have the ability to take from an industry, you should also give back to it,” he said. “You need to apply your talents in a way that leaves things better for those that come after you.”

He was happy to receive this award from BEMA, which he said has grown and evolved while maintaining its family-oriented sense of community.

“It was a great thrill to be recognized by the industry,” he said. Laughing, he added, “I appreciated getting the award while I’m still alive.”

Candy Taylor became involved in the baking industry in an unexpected career twist. She’d graduated from law school but, in a difficult economy, hadn’t found a position as an attorney. Instead, she pursued a sales rep job with Pak-It Manufacturing. Within four years, she had been promoted to executive vice president. After a buyout, she became general manager of AMF, Inc.’s Atlanta bakery division and then vice president of marketing for Baker-Mate, Inc.

Next, she founded Taylor-Made Systems, Inc., which sells baking equipment on behalf of manufacturers, with her husband in 1989.

She has been a member of BEMA for close to the 30 years and was president in 1995. She said that in that time, she’s seen BEMA grow in membership, philanthropy, and community.

“We developed a scholarship program and reached out to other organizations,” she said. “We began doing things for other people instead of just for ourselves.”

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In addition to being a member of every BEMA committee through the years, and chairperson of most of them, she has been active in the American Society of Bakery Engineers and the ABA. She said she was happy to give back to industry that had given her so much.

“I’m very grateful for the opportunities given to me and therefore wanted to serve the industry well,” she said. “I think when someone has been good to you, you should turn around and do the same for someone else.”

Presenting the award to Taylor, Dennis Gunnell noted her many career achievements.

“Candy has been a leader and tireless worker for the industry and its national and local professional organizations,” he said. “She has achieved success as an executive, professional, and a friend to us all.”

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BEMA, founded in 1918, is an international, not-for-profit trade association representing leading bakery and food suppliers. BEMA focuses specifically on furthering the professional, technological, educational, safety and sanitation practices within the bakery and food manufacturing industries.