

Bob Wagner, Fishman Flooring Solutions – Lifetime Achievement Award, NAFCD 2017

-Heidi Cronin

- I am honored to be here today presenting The 2017 NAFCD Lifetime Achievement Award to this year's recipient Bob Wagner from Fishman Flooring Solutions.
- Bob Wagner has been in the flooring industry since the mid 70's.
- He got his start as a floor covering installer while in high school and worked in his family's flooring installation business.
- He has actively been involved in the flooring installation community which has provided him continuous employment for four decades.
- Bob joined Fishman Flooring Solutions in 1997 as Vice President of Sales and Marketing, and has held position of President and CEO since October 2003.
- In his current capacity, Bob oversees more than 210 employees working in 35 locations who, since May 2012, own 100 percent of their company.
- These dedicated employees provide solutions to customers in Delaware, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia.
- His customer-centric leadership has helped the employee-owners of Fishman focus on improving how they serve and help their customers do their jobs better.
- Bob's leadership extends to the Industry as well. He has deep roots with NAFCD, and serves on the Board of the Floor Covering Distributor Alliance known as (Powerhold), which he is now President.
- I have the pleasure of sitting on the Board of Powerhold with Bob. I soak in his wisdom, absorb his knowledge and appreciate his kind heart. His encouragement and leadership have guided me to be a better person. I would like to share a few quotes from Bob that stick with me.....
- "Success is only about good people, not gender, race or anything else that makes us look different from one another"
- And my favorite.....
- "Don't let others define you. Define yourself and do what your heart and gut tells you"
- Great words to live by.
- Although I don't know Bob's life story or all of his industry history, I know a great person when I meet them. I have watched his leadership over the years. I have seen his passion, promotion of value, and his smile light up a room.
- Bob is very humble. He does not seek recognition, he simply wants the industry to thrive and he wants to be a part of making a difference.
- Bob has been a member of NAFCD since its inception in 1971, he has served on the Board in many capacities. He was President in 2011, and serving on the board when NAFCD put together the Lifetime Achievement Award. So what is more fitting than to congratulate and present this award on the 45th Anniversary of NAFCD to a mentor, a leader and a great friend, your 2017 Lifetime Achievement Award winner..... BOB WAGNER!