

NEWS RELEASE

Home Builders Association of Fargo-Moorhead

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For Immediate Release

Home Builders Association names Gunkelman 2010 Builder of the Year

Fargo, N.D. - The Home Builders Association of Fargo-Moorhead announces John Gunkelman, Dakota Construction of Fargo, Inc., as the recipient of its 2010 Builder of the Year award.

This award is presented each fall to recognize one outstanding builder member for effort and work expended in the interest of his or her fellow members, Association and community. Gunkelman has been a member of the HBA since 1992. As a recipient of the Fargo-Moorhead Builder of the Year award, he will be included in a state-wide competition judged by the North Dakota Association of Builders. Winners will be announced at NDAB's annual meeting in November.

Gunkelman is a three-time winner of the HBA's Builder of the Year Award and received the NDAB Builder of the Year in 2001. Gunkelman served as NDAB president last year; was HBA of F-M president; was president of the HBA of F-M's charity, Home Builders Care of Fargo-Moorhead Foundation; and served as chairman on the F-M Home Builders Health Plan & Trust. This year, Gunkelman earned life director status through the National Association of Home Builders at the 2010 International Builders Show. (NAHB grants life director status when directors have attended at least two out of the three yearly NAHB board of directors meetings consistently for the past ten years.) Also in 2010, he achieved his certified graduate remodeler designation through NAHB making it his fourth professional designation.

Gunkelman's legislative involvement is tremendous. In the past two years, Gunkelman helped coordinate major legislation favorable to the building industry and constantly lends his voice to specific items affecting the industry. During his NDAB presidency, he worked on behalf of the building industry to further legislation and mentor growth across the state through the six local associations. Under his guidance, NDAB was successful in introducing and passing major legislation that increased property tax incentives for new home construction and prohibits cities from mandating fire sprinklers in one- and two-family dwellings.

HBA Executive Vice President Bryce Johnson says, "John is always available when we need him for issues that come up affecting our industry. His efforts help our members and home buyers save thousands of dollars and keep housing affordable, which is exactly what we, as home builders associations, are here for."

Gunkelman's community activity includes involvement with YMCA Camp Cormorant; Freedom By Design, an architectural student group at NDSU; Habitat for Humanity; Special Olympics; Sts. Anne and Joachim Church; Red River Soccer; Construction Specifications Institute; F-M-WF Chamber of Commerce; North Dakota Chamber of Commerce; National Federation of Independent Businesses; and the Better Business Bureau.

Gunkelman and his wife, Judy, live in Fargo and have four grown children: Sarah; Andrew, Molly and Jeff.

The HBA of F-M is a non-profit trade association of over 800 members that has been in existence since 1956. Its mission is to provide quality services, benefits and education to members and the community while representing the collective interests of the home building industry. North Dakota Association of Builders consists of six local associations across the state with nearly 2,000 members, and is affiliated with the National Association of Home Builders. NAHB is a building trade association based in Washington, D.C., with over 235,000 members nationwide.

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For answers to any questions regarding this release, please call Krista Mund at (701) 232-5846.