

CRAMER RESCUE AWARD PRESENTED AT AGC OF IOWA ANNUAL BBQ

DES MOINES, Iowa – We all celebrated Labor Day this year, which recognizes the contributions of our nation’s workforce to the economy and quality of life we all enjoy. Everyone in the construction industry knows how important our workforce is to our success. We are not only proud of the tasks they perform, but the “get it done” attitude that is particularly prevalent among industry workers.

That “get it done” attitude was honored with the Cramer Rescue Award.

This past June, **Alan Neely** and **Patricia Ralph-Neely** found themselves in grave difficulty while operating their boat on the Des Moines River. When their boat went over the dam it quickly became apparent that Des Moines Police and the Fire Department could not accomplish the rescue because of the churning waters below the dam. It was during that time that the **Cramer Construction** crew working on the bridge project sized up the situation and took over the rescue. The entire crew worked as crucial minutes ticked by. They relocated the crane to a position to lower a man to water level to try and secure Ralph-Neely, who was at the base of the dam.

Many have probably seen the news outtake footage of the rescue. It is thrilling and frightening to watch, but the outcome was one that makes us all proud to shake the hands of the construction workers involved. They are to be commended not only for what they did, but for their humble attitude while in the public limelight and their representation that it was a crew effort not individual heroics. Ralph-Neely is alive today because of this crew. Sadly, her husband, Alan, did not survive the accident.

Bravo award plaques were presented to each crew member, along with a DVD of the news footage. Each award reads “2009 Bravo Award for Life Saving in recognition of extraordinary efforts involving the Des Moines River rescue and saving of a life on June 30, 2009. His professionalism and courage have brought honor to his crew, company and Iowa’s construction industry.”



*(Left to right) Robert Cramer, Co-President of Cramer & Associates; Dave Arp; Patricia Ralph-Neely (survivor of the boating accident); Deborah Lowe (accepting for her husband Joe Lowe, the crane operator); Bobby Karpan; Shawn Tough; Chad Coalbank and Dan Cramer, Co-President of Cramer & Associates*

The following people were honored:

- **Deborah Lowe** accepting for her husband, **Joe Lowe**, the crane operator
- **Dave Arp**
- **Kevin Brammer**
- **Bobby Karpan**
- **Dan Kain**
- **Jack Hedden**
- **Shawn Tough**
- **Richard Schoene**
- **Jason Ogelsbee**, who pulled Patricia from the water
- **Chad Coalbank**, supervisor

In recognition of his company’s role in being there at the right time and with the right equipment and people, AGC senior vice president, **Robert Cramer**, was presented with two pictures to hang in his company headquarters. The first features Ogelsbee and the second features the crew the day they received the governor’s life saving award.