# GLASSREFLECTIONS

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20 YEARS

## Celebrating 20 years in business

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ISSUE 09





## Letter from the President

This time of year 20 years ago, I was working on a business plan to form Glass Inc. I was talking with other successful businessmen to seek advice on how to start a company, researching software and computers, meeting with insurance companies and banks, and lining up the people that would be here on day one. Finally, on July 5, 1999, we opened for business! It's unbelievable how fast 20 years has gone by! This year on July 5, we are planning a celebration. We will be closed for business that day (a paid holiday) and hope each of you can come and celebrate with us. We will have plenty of food and entertainment along with activities for the kids. We also plan on inviting many of the people we have worked with over the years (i.e., customers, contractors, architects, bankers, etc.) to come and celebrate with us! Please mark your calendars!

In the last newsletter, I talked about all the work we had coming up this year and how busy we would be. Well, it's here! We are currently in full swing on the Four Seasons project in New Orleans, the Phoenix Orange Beach condo, St. Jude ALSAC in Memphis, Campbell Federal Courthouse in Mobile, and at least a dozen other projects throughout the South. We are also getting close to starting the St. Jude Research Tower in Memphis, WestGate Condo in Tuscaloosa, and East Mississippi State Hospital in Meridian. Cook Convention Center in Memphis was also just awarded to us and will start later this year. This could be our biggest year ever!!

As always, there is no project more important than your safety! Please watch out for yourself and your coworkers and report any unsafe conditions you may come across on job sites or in the shop. I expect all of you to help us achieve our Zero Accident Goal this year!

I look forward to seeing you all in July!!

# Safety Spotlight

## DJay Ladner on Campbell Courthouse

We would like to recognize DJay for his outstanding emphasis on safety at the Campbell Courthouse in Mobile, AL.

#### We appreciate your hard work, DJay!



# **Under** Construction

**Campbell Courthouse** 

**Four Seasons** 

#### Lofts at Dudy Noble

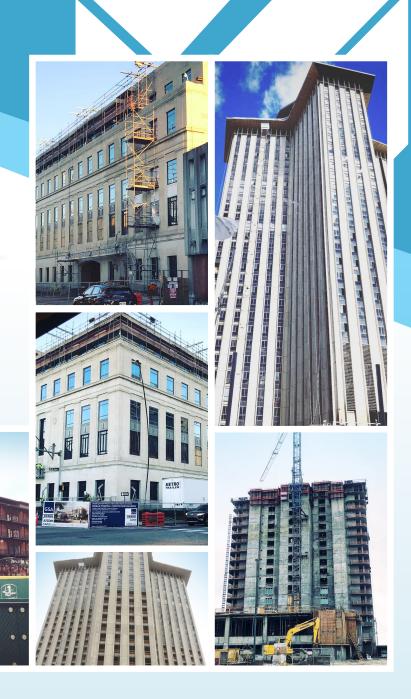
Phoenix Orange Beach II





JULY 05 2019

You all are the reason for the success we have had over the past 20 years, and it's time to CELEBRATE YOU! All employees and their families are invited! So, SAVE THE DATE!





**Friday, July 5, 2019,** we will be celebrating our 20th year in business with a big bash at the Meridian office. This fun family event will include a band, jumpy houses for kids, games, a photo booth, great food and drinks, door prizes, etc. We will put all Gulfport and Foley employees up in hotel rooms and provide transportation to and from the hotel to the party. We CANNOT WAIT to celebrate with all of you! Twenty years in business is a great accomplishment, and it could NOT have been done without each and every one of you.



# On the **Horizon**



**Memphis Convention Center** 

with Yates Construction

# Employee Birthdays

## JANUARY

- 06 Guadalupe Perez
- 07 Pat Jenkins
- 07 DJay Ladner
- 09 Justin Smith
- 18 Dylan Ladner
- 19 Sherie Dover
- 20 Kristen Smith
- 25 Kelli Blackwell

## **FEBRUARY**

- 02 Westin Latting
- 13 Wendie Marler
- **19** Dale Minchew
- 21 Adam Brumbelow
- 25 Mandon Toncrey

Milestones

## MARCH

- 07 Janet Crabtree
- 11 Dalton Yarbrough
- 16 Josh Smith
- 22 Stephen Dyess
- 31 Josh Bowers

# **FEATURED** Paul McKeown

Born and raised in Biloxi, I went to D'Iberville High School and graduated in 1994. Right out of high school I went and did four years in the Navy. I was stationed in Japan, and it was such an enjoyable experience. I got to see almost all of Asia, which was incredible. I would do it again in a heartbeat if I could.

After that I worked offshore in the Gulf of Mexico for about four years. After that I met a contractor and started building log homes, which kept me on the road constantly. I did that for about 12 years until I was just tired of being away from home.

It was by random chance that I wound up at Glass Inc. My brother was on a job site and met Rob and Billy, who said that Glass Inc. was hiring. I came in and interviewed with Billy and Rob. Two months went by, and I finally heard back. They hired me, and I immediately started on the city service truck. I was on the truck for about six years until I got promoted to City Service Manager.

I never saw myself in the glass business, but I am thankful to be here. I have worked for a few crooked contractors, and so when I met Robert I knew he was a man of integrity. That means a lot to me and helps me sleep better at night knowing I work for a man and a company like that. I am excited to grow with the company. It is nice to see how many huge projects we have coming our way.

I have a school bus project at home that keeps me busy. I am converting it into an RV, so that pretty much consumes my off time at the moment. I also love to ride motorcycles. That is definitely a passion of mine.

## **Birth** Announcements

#### **1 YEAR**

**Erica Brassfield Carla Manley Guadalupe Perez** 

#### 2 YEARS

Kelli Blackwell Michael Harwell **Keith Smith Kristen Smith** 

#### 4 YEARS **Ronnie Majkrzak**

**12 YEARS** Jack Rush

**15 YEARS Keith Bowe Daniel Fogle** 



Jay Thomas welcomed granddaughter Mila Jolene Thomas on January 3, 2019.

#### 04





#### I have worked for a few crooked contractors, and so when I met Robert I knew he was a man of integrity.

Dylan Ladner holding his newborn son, Charlie Ladner.





# FEATURED Buddy Pickard

Born in 1973 and raised in Meridian, Buddy graduated from Clarkdale High School in 1992. Right after he graduated he went to work for Robert at Mississippi Paint and Glass as a helper on a truck at \$5.50 an hour. He became the lead man on a truck the second year of work there. He was one of the original seven to come and work for Robert when Glass Inc. was formed. When Buddy started at Glass Inc., he was primarily in city service.



"When we started rocking on the condo work, I went full-time contract," Buddy said. "I worked on all the Beach Club Towers, Caribes, and Bella Luna. Out of all the projects I ever worked on, the Caribes were my favorite. I did the layouts for Caribe 2 and 3. We had all of our major lead men in the company on those jobs together. and it was very enjoyable."



06

"I would have to say my least favorite project was Gulfport Memorial Hospital. Yes, it was a nightmare while it was going on; however I am glad to have worked on it because it is such a prestigious job."

Buddy is currently on the Four Seasons project in New Orleans. "Although it is a difficult job to tackle, it is nice to have our name on this one. This is the largest contract project we have ever done. I have been in the glass business for over 26 years now, and when I went to work for Robert in 1992, I had no intentions of making a career out of it. I wouldn't want to work for anyone else.

"I have spent my entire career with Robert. I take a lot of pride in this work, and I still enjoy tackling the construction hurdles that we run into." Buddy has been married to Kellie for 15 years, and together they have a daughter named Raylee.

In his spare time, Buddy enjoys working on a dirt late model race car with his best friend, Jim McDuffie. He also enjoys being a part of whatever sport his daughter is in. "She is what I do it all for."

I have spent my entire career with Robert. I take a lot of pride in this work, and I still enjoy tackling the construction hurdles that we run into.



Robert has a lot of good hands working for him right now. If one can't fix it, the other one can.

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Terry wears many hats around here. He does anything from driving trucks and repairing equipment to city service, inventory, ordering, duck camp shenanigans, etc. "I like a challenge when it comes to fixing things," he said. "I enjoy being called to fix things because I can usually figure it out. We are all that way. Robert has a lot of good hands working for him right now. If one can't fix it, the other one can."

In his spare time, Terry enjoys working on his old car, a 1966 Oldsmobile two-door Holiday. Terry also enjoys being outdoors. He does work for Mississippi Land and Lakes. He surveys, puts up gates, cleans up, does bushhogging, handles game management, takes care of deer feeders, fixes winches, etc.

# FEATURED Terry Pope

Born in 1959 in Meridian at Riley Hospital, he graduated from Meridian High School in 1977. Terry has been married to Tina for 24 years, and they have two sons, T.J. and Adam.

Right after high school, Terry went to work for Peavey in the maintenance department. After that he went to work for Pony Express, and shortly after that Binswanger Glass. While at Binswanger, Terry worked in shop and delivery. Terry worked for Max Lee, who ran the shop. Mitchell, Dale, Billy, and Robert all worked together at Binswanger.

Terry came to work for Glass Inc. in 2011 as Shop Manager. Terry has done heavy glass work for the city for 24 years and still does. He came into the shop one day to get some glass cut, and Robert hired him.

# In the **Spotlight**

### We are proud to have been featured in the **2019 Meridian Star's Business Profile section!**

"The most beneficial thing about Meridian has been the relationships we've made," said Kristen Smith, the company's director of marketing. "There are a lot of successful business people in Meridian. My dad, Robert (president of Glass, Inc.), started a relationship with Yates Construction back in the late 80s – early 90s. Having that relationship with them over the years...when they grew, we grew."

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#### 'When they grew, we grew'



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Bill Graham / The Meridian Star Terry Pope and Brian Baltzell move a large pane of glass at the Glass Inc. warehouse in Meridian.

Being headquartered in East Mississippi has also been good for Glass Inc., which opened its corporate office in 1999 on Grand Avenue in Meridian before expanding to Gulfport and Foley, Alabama. The company, which specializes in commercial and residential glass and glazing systems, has done work all over the Southeast. If you've visited the Beau Rivage Casino and Resort in Biloxi, or stopped by Meridian City Hall, you've seen their work.

#### **Deer Slayers**

Johnny Cumberland, Mitchell Moffett, and Michael Harwell









#### **ABC Young Professionals Chili Cookoff**

On February 8, Glass Inc. enjoyed participating in the1st Annual ABC Young Professionals Chili Cookoff. **#TEAMCHILICHILIBANGBANG** 

#### **Congratulations!**



We would like to congratulate our intern, Tyler Lacy (far left), and all of the Phi Theta Kappa's at Meridian Community College for winning gold at their regional conference!



#### Jeannie's Place at Planet Playground

We volunteered at Planet Playground to help bring Jeannie's Place to life! This addition at Planet Playground made it handicapped-accessible!

#### **Glass Inc.**

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