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Morris Dennis receives 2011 Peyton Shaner Award

Morris Dennis of Dennis Paper Co. in Nashville, Tenn., has been awarded the 2011 Peyton Shaner Award. The presentation was made during the 2011 Association of Independent Printing Paper Merchants (AIPPM) Fall Conference, which was held recently at the Sofitel Chicago Water Tower.

The Peyton Shaner Award was established to commemorate the founder of the Association of Independent Printing Paper Merchants. The recipient is recognized as someone who has shared Shaner's passion for our industry. Past recipients include Doug Adams and Bill Stemmerman of Appleton, Jeff Kirchmer of National Envelope, and Bill Frohlich of the NPTA Alliance.

Morris Dennis started in the paper business in 1943 (at the age of 17) with the Bond Sanders Paper Co. in Nashville; he is a 68-year veteran of the industry. After serving as a volunteer in the Navy during World War II, he returned to work at Bond Sanders, where he handled many responsibilities, including operating a ruling machine, building pallets and producing envelopes.

In 1959, Staner was named the Distinguished Salesman Award by Champion Paper. He would later join Athens Paper, where he developed the fine paper sales for the company. He founded Dennis Paper Co. in Nashville in 1969. Operations began in a 17,000 square-foot warehouse, and seven years later the company moved to a facility nearly twice the size.

Morris was awarded the Craftsman of the Year Award in 1977 by the Nashville chapter of the International Association of Printing House Craftsmen. In 1997, he was recognized by the state of Tennessee as an Honorary Court Officer for his outstanding service to the state and the governmental processes. The Printing Industry Association of the South named Morris the Person of the Year in 2004. In 2009, he was presented the Founders Award by the AIPPM.

Morris celebrated his 85 birthday in May, and still arrives daily in the office at 7 a.m. While other executives require six years of study and a Master of Business Administration, Morris has been blessed with the natural talent of business sense and leadership along with the hard work ethic so characteristic of his generation.

Somewhere, Peyton Shaner must be smiling!

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The purpose of the Association of Independent Printing Paper Merchants (AIPPM) is to bring growth and value to its members by leveraging its purchasing and marketing opportunities, sharing and encouraging the use of best business practices, and promoting the healthy exchange of ideas.