

**TOMMY ARIAIL
RECEIVES STEVE EPPS LIFETIME
SERVICE AWARD**

MONDAY, JUNE 20, 2016

**Contact: Lillian Link
(704) 215-4543**

Myrtle Beach, SC, June 20 – Tommy Ariail, (retired) Beal Manufacturing Co., has been awarded the Steve Epps Lifetime Service Award which honors STA members who have been a member of STA for 20 years or more, are retiring or have retired, served the association in many capacities of leadership and service during their years of membership. Steve Epps served as president of STA in 1985-86 and remained an active member of STA until his death in 2010. Recipients are selected by vote of the Board of Governors. The presentation was made during the STA Business Breakfast Session of the Joint Meeting of the STA and Fiber Buyers Groups at The Marriott Resort & Spa at Grande Dunes. The Award was presented by William (Eddie) Gaither, STA Past President, Greenwood Mills.

In 1961 Tommy Ariail attended his first STA meeting in Clinton, SC and has spent the last 55 years supporting the organization and the industry he loves. He worked his way through the leadership ranks, was president in 1988 and served as Chairman of the Board the following year. In 1998 Tommy received the David Clark Award for leadership and service and in 2008 he celebrated STA's 100-year milestone where his daughter became the 100th president.

Ariail is a native of Sevierville, TN and a 1961 graduate of Clemson University where he earned a B.S. degree in Textile Engineering. Working at Mayfair Mills in his early career, he later spent time with Spartan Mills and retired from Beal Manufacturing. Following retirement, he began teaching at Tri-County Technical College as an adjunct professor, a role he still enjoys today.

Ariail was active in the Fairforest Ruritan Club serving in 1972 as president. He served on the school board in Spartanburg County School System District Six for 20 years. Continuing his passion for education, Tommy is currently Chairman of the Board of the ARCH after school program for challenged first graders.

He is a member of Arcadia United Methodist Church where he has lived his life as an example of "if it needs to be done, don't wait on the next guy; roll up your sleeves and do it." Tommy was blessed to have his late wife, Lavana by his side for 20 years, and their blended family numbers 5 sons, 2 daughters, 5 daughter-in-laws, 20 son-in-laws, 3 granddaughters, and 6 grand-sons...and growing.

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