



# SOUTHERN TEXTILE ASSOCIATION

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**JAMES W. PAYNE  
RECEIVES STEVE EPPS LIFETIME  
SERVICE AWARD**

**FOR RELEASE NOT BEFORE  
MONDAY, JUNE 18, 2018**

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**Myrtle Beach, SC, June 18** – James W. Payne, (retired) International Textile Group (ITG) – Carlisle Finishing, LLC, 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 Annual Meeting of the STA and Fiber Buyers Groups at The Marriott Resort & Spa at Grande Dunes. The Award was presented by Ed Cox, Plant Manager, International Textile Group (ITG) and Past President of STA.

Payne, now retired from ITG – Carlisle Finishing, LLC, served as president of STA in 1998-99 and chairman 1999-2000. Prior to his retirement, he was chairman of the STA Bylaws Committee. James received the David Clark Award in 2009 and continues to serve on the Board of Governors as an ex-officio member.

Payne joined Cone Mills in June 1971 upon graduation from North Carolina State University with a degree in Textile Technology. His career evolved through several production management assignments and business unit responsibilities. He actively participated in the combination of Cone Mills and Burlington Industries to create International Textile Group (ITG). Payne was involved with a very wide array of textile products including denim, corduroy, yarn dyeing, piece dyeing, fabric printing, and narrow woven webbings.

James retired from ITG in December 2017. He lives in Greensboro, North Carolina and has plans to spend many enjoyable days playing golf and boating on Smith Mountain Lake in southwest Virginia.

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