



NSCB News Release



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CONTRACTORS BOARD CELEBRATES THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF HOWARD "HOWDY" WELLS, JR., OF WELLS CARGO, INC.

HENDERSON & RENO, Nev. – The Nevada State Contractors Board is saddened by the loss of Howard “Howdy” Wells, Jr., second-generation owner of Wells Cargo, Inc., who passed away April 26. Wells, Jr. was the founding father of the Nevada Contractors Association and was a former Board member for the Associated General Contractors Association and the Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce.

“Those who knew Howdy could attest he was a true pioneer in Nevada’s construction industry,” expressed NSCB Executive Officer Margi A. Grein. “He was a man of great humility with a powerful ability to bring people together, create new opportunities, and help those less fortunate around him. We are saddened by his loss, but grateful for the many ways he positively influenced and left his mark in communities across Nevada.”

Wells Cargo, Inc. holds Nevada contractor’s license number 273, one of the first licensed contractors in the State. The company was initially founded by Howard Wells, Sr., Howdy’s father. Upon taking leadership, Wells, Jr. turned the company into a predominant general engineering and building firm in Southern Nevada, spearheading construction projects that included building the first road into Summerlin from Smoke Ranch Road, constructing vital roadways such as Tropicana and Rainbow Boulevards and Spring Mountain Road, and participating in the Highway 215 Beltway Projects at Sahara and Charleston.

Wells Cargo, Inc.’s quarry at Loan Mountain became one of the main providers of asphalt and aggregate materials supplying Southern Nevada’s construction activities during Wells, Jr. tenure as president, and remains as such to this day. In recent years, Wells, Jr., turned the company over to his son, Guy Wells, who also serves on the Nevada State Contractors Board.

As founder of the Nevada Contractors Association, Wells, Jr. was instrumental in labor negotiations for contractors and being an industry leader people could turn to for guidance relative to their business.

In addition to his involvement in the construction industry, Wells, Jr.'s most admirable trait was his philanthropic enthusiasm and involvement, having served as past president of the United Way in Reno and the Southwest Rotary. His charitable contributions extended to youth sports teams and numerous other organizations who benefited from his selflessness and giving nature.

During his lifetime, Wells, Jr. was an active participant in the Elks BPOE in Reno, served as director of the Reno Rodeo Association, was a founding member of the Reno Downtown Association, board member of the former Pioneer Citizens Bank, served as a member of the Prospector's Club of Reno, and was a Rotary Paul Harris Fellow.

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