



Nineteen years ago, as editor of *American Sweeper* magazine, I began the tradition of recognizing outstanding individuals and companies in the sweeping industry. Through the intervening years the honor, called the Award of Excellence in Power Sweeping, has become the top distinction in the world of power sweeping.

The award qualifications, which include more than just success in the sweeping industry, encompass time devoted to building professionalism in the industry and in assisting others involved in the power sweeping industry. In 2006 *American Sweeper* magazine transitioned into the WorldSweeper.com website and, in 2013, was further expanded in the founding of the World Sweeping Association. Throughout this time the Award of Excellence tradition has continued.

Our Award this year encompasses a story of American ingenuity and innovation. Thirty-nine years ago a man named Jack Rogers had an idea that would change the face of the fledgling parking lot sweeping industry. "Why," Rogers wondered, "was a second engine required to run a sweeper? Couldn't debris somehow be accomplished via tapping the power of the chassis engine?" Not one to simply speculate, Rogers built and then worked on refining a prototype sweeper design that was powered by the main chassis engine of a pickup truck.

This wasn't an overnight process, and it wasn't until ten years later, in 1985, that patents on the idea were filed and, soon after, Jack Rogers, Inc. began offering this new idea in sweeper power to the marketplace. However, it took another nine years of struggling before a new firm was formed that laid the groundwork for what is today one of America's best known sweeping companies. Given the same name as what Jack had called his original sweeper model, NiteHawk, a company named NiteHawk Sweepers was formed in 1994. Also, as is so often the case, it ultimately turned out that the inventor of a technology wasn't the best person to bring it to the marketplace.

Two gentlemen by the names of Brad Morris and Tracy Day became involved in the effort and, to quote a caption from a 1995 photo of the two from the company's website, they plotted 'the rise of the NiteHawk empire' from a

manufacturing base originally located in Fresno, California, which was then moved to Seattle, Washington in 1997.

The company was purchased by the Alamo Group in 2006, today's operation is still headed by company president, Tracy Day. The leading-edge sweepers the company builds are exemplified by the parking lot sweeping industry's first alternative fuel, LPG and CNG sweepers, which can be seen on the show floor of this year's NPE.

The company's single-engine, hydraulic-powered, technology has become well known in the marketplace. Members of this audience and the buying public may also know the company has been involved in some notable charitable efforts, as well. These have included donating a sweeper to the Red Cross in support of a 2006 hurricane relief effort and, throughout 2014 — as evidenced by the camouflage and environmental green wrap sweepers on the show floor — purchases of these wrapped NiteHawk Sweepers that occur by the end of February 2014 will benefit disabled American veterans in the amount of \$1500 per sweeper purchased.

However, you probably don't know that for 20 years NiteHawk brooms have been made by what have become generations of boys and girls who needed to make money in order to go to camp or be involved in similar positive endeavors. Even lesser known are the personal philanthropic efforts of many members of the NiteHawk team. Employees are heavily involved and invested in the Boy Scouts of America, the Susan G. Koman effort to eradicate breast cancer, the Red Cross, the NW Kidney Foundation and more.

And, when Tracy Day talks about his company he invariably downplays his own role in the firm's success, instead talking about the joint efforts of his entire NiteHawk Team.

That's why this year's Award of Excellence in Power Sweeping, the power sweeping industry's highest honor, doesn't have the name Tracy Day on it anywhere. Instead, as was the way we felt sure was the way Tracy would want it, the plaque reads as shown below. Unfortunately, Tracy was unable to stay at NPE late enough to accept this award for his company. So, on his behalf I invite the members of the NiteHawk Team still at NPE to come forward to accept the honor for the NiteHawk organization.

In commendation of its many contributions
to the United States power sweeping industry,

NiteHawk Sweepers

has been chosen as recipient of the 2014



This award is bestowed only to those whose long-term commitment and dedication have served to create a positive improvement in the entire American power sweeping industry.