

Carley Building Dedicated in Ceremony

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On a bright, clear day in May, nearly 80 people, including employees, retirees, family, and friends, gathered to dedicate the John Carley System Operations Center.

During a short ceremony, several long-time co-workers spoke about John's continued dedication and service to South Mississippi Electric. They mentioned many of the special qualities that he has long been known for, including his leadership, sacrifice, spirit, care for his fellow employees, and good nature.

"Whether I worked for John as one of his employees or whether I work side by side with John in his current role as a consultant to SMEPA, he has always been a cheerful man dedicated to his job, dedicated to his family and dedicated to his faith," said Curt Holland, hired by Carley thirteen years ago. "Winston Churchill once said, 'Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference.' Thank you, John, for having an attitude that is filled with faith, devotion, kindness, and caring."

"John hired me as a lean kid in a blue suit, blue shirt, and white tie in 1974," said Tommy Clark. "Within a month I had met his wife, Peggy, and his children and had been accepted as one of the family. John has many accomplishments at SMEPA that will be remembered for many years to come. But perhaps the greatest accomplishment from those years is his and Peggy's choice to invest in the lives of those around them.

"I am one of those lives. When I think of John and Peggy, I immediately think of Christ. They had to earn that right. Their lives have been a constant walk with their Lord, sacrificing for Him, by touching the lives of family, and extended family, like those of us here at SMEPA."

Nathan Brown, chief operating officer, commented on John's contributions to the success of South Mississippi Electric and his continued support of the Association and its Members.

"In addition to his life-long impact on his family, friends, and co-workers, during his career John has made significant contributions that have helped shape SMEPA into what it is today," said Brown. "He has participated in the negotiations of some very significant contracts for SMEPA, including the 1979 Interconnection Agreement between SMEPA and Entergy Mississippi, the Ownership and Operating Agreement for Grand Gulf, the Batesville Unit 3 Power Purchase Agreement, the Big Cajun 75MW Power Purchase Agreement, and in many amendments to the Interconnection Agreement with Mississippi Power Company, including the addition of Protective Capacity (Pro Cap). All of these continue to be excellent contracts for SMEPA.

"Since returning as a consultant, John has continued to be instrumental in the negotiations of additional contracts, including the buyout of the Aquila Contract for Batesville Unit 3, the Plum Point Power Purchase Agreement, and the Power Supply Agreement between SMEPA and Mississippi Power Company. He is currently working on the development of an Asset Purchase Agreement for the purchase of 17.5% of the Kemper IGCC facility.

"John has and continues to be a huge benefit to me as a co-worker, as a role model, and as a friend," Brown noted. "I am proud to work in the System Operations Center that has been named in his honor."

“This event honoring John is a great reflection of his work ethic and character,” said General Manager/CEO Jim Compton in his remarks. “He has been a tremendous asset to the Association throughout his years of service as an employee and now as a consultant. We appreciate all that he has done, and we are honored to name this state-of-the-art building—which is so important to our overall operations—after him.”

Compton unveiled a framed portrait and copy of the Board of Directors’ resolution that approved the building name, which now hangs in the building’s conference room as a permanent reminder of John’s numerous contributions to the organization.