

NEWS RELEASE

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William S. “Bill” Marvin Inducted into IDEA Hall of Fame

BEMIDJI, MN – April 25, 2012 – William S. “Bill” Marvin was inducted posthumously into the *IDEA Hall of Fame* on April 25 at the IDEA Competition Awards Banquet, held at the Sanford Events Center in Bemidji. Jake Marvin, chairman and chief executive officer of The Marvin Company accepted the award on his behalf.

The *IDEA Hall of Fame* was instituted in 2009 to recognize and honor the accomplishments of the region’s legacy innovators—those within the region who have inspired others with their entrepreneurial vision, leadership and achievement. The *IDEA Hall of Fame* includes four other Northwest Minnesota inductees: Andy Wells of Wells Technology; Edgar Hetteen, founder of Polaris and Arctic Cat; and Glen and Dennis Brazier, brothers who founded MATTRACKS and Central Boiler, respectively.

George Marvin set an example of hard work, ingenuity and integrity by building the foundation of what would become Marvin Windows and Doors. But it was his oldest son who would provide the visionary leadership that transformed Marvin into a world leader in the building industry.

William S. “Bill” Marvin graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1939 and set his sights on a career in agribusiness. Months later, he got a call from his father, George Marvin: Come home. I need you to help me. And so Bill Marvin returned to Warroad as the Marvin company’s eighth employee. He’d spend the rest of his long life in Warroad, but his vision extended much further.

Soon after Bill joined the company, a lumberyard employee suggested making door frames and barn sashes – once again, in an attempt to keep workers busy over the winter. The company bought a saw and began its first venture in the window business. But with the outbreak of World War II, Marvin turned its attention to making ammunition boxes and other supplies under military contracts.

When the war ended, Bill Marvin realized that returning veterans needed jobs. If they couldn’t find jobs in Warroad, they’d have to move elsewhere. So, over his father’s objections, Bill Marvin invested in top-line woodworking machinery and launched what we now know as Marvin Windows and Doors.

During the 1950s, Marvin’s small sales force criss-crossed the Upper Midwest in Chevrolet station wagons, signing up independent local dealers to distribute Marvin windows. During this time, the company introduced a number of innovative new windows that boosted sales dramatically.

By the 1960s, Marvin had its own fleet of trucks and had added patio doors to its product line. Marvin also began advertising and marketing aggressively, promoting its unique capacity to build any window a customer wanted. Today, that continues with our “Built around you®” promise.

As the decades rolled by, Marvin grew: from a few dozen employees in the 1950s, to a few hundred in the 1960s, to more than 4,000 today. Bill immersed his six children in the business from early childhood. They all remember going to the factory with Dad on weekend afternoons, sweeping floors and emptying wastebaskets. Every one of those six children joined the business and has made significant contributions to the company’s continued growth.

Bill Marvin famously kept a close watch on everything in the company, but also he knew it couldn’t thrive without the best ideas from everyone. He believed in giving people the opportunity to succeed. “I don’t have to be the smartest at everything,” he said. “I just have to find the people who are.” When someone struggled, Bill would say, “That’s not a bad employee. We just need to find the right spot for them.”

BUILDER magazine named Bill Marvin one of the 100 most influential people of the 20th century building industry – a richly deserved recognition. Bill Marvin died in 2009 at age 92, but his energy, and enlightened management practices live on in the company he led for 40 years.