



## Citation of Robert J. Bruce for the 2007 Comstock Award

*The Comstock Award, established by the National Electrical Contractors Association's Board of Directors in 1959 and awarded annually, is the association's highest honor recognizing contributions in the complex field of labor relations. Robert J. Bruce is recognized for his integral role in contributing to harmonious labor relations throughout his area, regionally, and nationwide. Moreover, he is honored for providing leadership through example.*

*Robert J. Bruce is the chairman and CEO of Bruce & Merrilees Electric of New Castle, Pennsylvania, and is credited with jump-starting much of the growth and diversity that the company has seen over the past several decades as he continues to keep the focus on new technology and growth through development and education. Bruce & Merrilees Electric has been a member of the Western Pennsylvania Chapter, NECA, for more than 60 year, and Mr. Bruce has been a member of the chapter's board of directors for 27 years and its governor since 1994.*

*In this role, Bob Bruce has done an excellent job making sure the members of the Western Pennsylvania Chapter are well represented and versed on the issues coming before NECA's Board of Governors. He has served on the chapter education committee, the membership committee, the labor management committee and as a trustee on the Local Union 712 Pension Trust and the Health and Welfare Plan.*

*In particular, he is noted for his instrumental role in establishing a drug-free program for IBEW Local 712 and our Western Pennsylvania Chapter which provided a model replicated on a nationwide basis. This change occurred at a time when it could only be achieved through Bob's honest and forceful approach to labor relations and stemmed from his firmly held belief that all electrical contractors should have the best possible workers and supervision for the complicated and technical work of the electrical construction industry. Now, thanks to this example, all the NECA-IBEW agreements between workers and employers throughout North America include workable and effective drug-free standards as a mandatory requirement.*

*Mr. Bruce has served his local and national association in a number of other ways as well, including as a panelist for the Council of Industrial Relations (CIR) for the Electrical Construction Industry. He served on cases from 2005 through 2006 and was recalled to action in 2007 when a vacancy in a contractor seat occurred. His willingness to serve on short notice is indicative of his dedication to resolving labor management issues.*

*In addition, over the past 20 years, Bob Bruce has devoted countless hours to the construction industry serving as a board member of the National Maintenance Agreement Labor-Management Policy Committee. The NMAPC oversees the National Maintenance Agreement and the committee meets quarterly with building construction trades labor unions to save time and money and to solve problems on maintenance work on large industrial complexes.*

*In summary, as chairman of the Western Pennsylvania Chapter's labor management committee, Bob Bruce has worked tirelessly to promote harmonious but fair relations between the IBEW and NECA. On a wider basis, he actively encourages cooperation between NECA and the IBEW and has achieved monumental successes and progress for the electrical construction industry that is emulated in many areas of the country today. He is respected at all levels of the NECA and IBEW organizations, and his presence fosters cooperation and reason.*

*Therefore, for all his selfless contributions and for proving himself as a man of character and conviction, Robert J. Bruce is duly honored with the 2007 Comstock Award. He is a most worthy recipient of the award named in honor of our industry's most revered labor-relations pioneer.*