

Innovators & Influencers

Thanks for a Job Well Done

BY MATT DIXON



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IT'S THE WRONG MONTH for Thanksgiving, but I've never been the type to think showing some appreciation is limited to November. So that's why we came up with the idea of the Innovators & Influencers section you'll see in the following pages. *Sign & Digital Graphics* wants to take some time to say good job, nice going, well done, bravo, but mostly thank you to a group of individuals who have changed for the better the way our industry conducts business.

In order to determine who we featured in this section, we asked the people whom they affected most—our readers. Over the course of the spring and summer we solicited nominations from our readers to come up with a list worthy of praise. Does this mean we feature *everyone* who is worthy? Of course not; we only have so many pages. But what we created is a list of people who have gone above and beyond in our industry to either change the way we work, the way we think or the way we go about our daily business.

Our list includes inventors who have saved people in our industry thousands of hours of work in the shop. It includes people who fight for the legal rights of sign shops. It includes people who figured out ways to add a bigger margin to the bottom line. It includes people who saw waste and wanted it eliminated. It includes people who recognized opportunity and seized it. It includes people who changed the face of signmaking just by solving common problems.

But what we have here is just a sampling of what these men and women have done. Many of our nominees are still in the industry, meaning their greatest contributions may be yet to come.

So, to the people we have listed here in these pages, we give a hearty thank you from the industry you have helped shape over the course of your careers. And to you, readers, we greatly thank you for your nominations and hope you enjoy reading about some of the true innovators and influencers of our industry.