

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

FAREWELL AND THANK YOU



DON FORD

Alas, it is deep into winter, work has slowed to a snail's pace, and we struggle to make ends meet—except for those of us in ICRI, who are here in Las Vegas attending ICRI's annual Kick-Off Party at Margaritaville, sipping on fancy tropical drinks with little umbrellas. Welcome to the world of concrete/masonry restoration (not to be confused with Hanley Wood's World of Concrete). Yes, 2011 has come and gone and I, for one, am sad. Not sad because the ICRI organization continues to excel in the toughest of economies, not sad because we continue to stay close to 2000 national and international members, but sad because it is time for me to step down and turn the reins of our organization over to another. What an honor it has been for me to help provide leadership for one of the finest organizations in the concrete repair industry.

If you had the opportunity to read my "President's Message" columns this past year, you probably picked up on the underlying theme that it is because of our volunteers that we produce such great Technical Guidelines, that we have such an informative Web site, that we are able to provide scholarships, that we continue to increase our student membership, and that our overall membership continues to increase. I could go on and on, but I believe most of you are aware of our achievements. The dictionary defines a "volunteer" as a person who voluntarily undertakes a task or offers his or her services without fee. Our volunteerism has its roots in the chapters, which serve as the core of ICRI. From this core of chapter members comes the national membership, the national committees, the national Board of Directors, and the national Executive Committee. My guess would be that the Executive Committee alone has a

cumulative experience of over 75 years actively serving the ICRI organization. Not that we're that old, but that we have the exuberance and desire to see ICRI perform at the highest level. I feel that I have just served with the finest group of volunteers one would ever have the opportunity to become acquainted with. It seems I have made more friends this past year than at any other time in my professional career. Not once did I ask for a volunteer that someone did not step up to the plate and perform.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our incoming President, Garth Fallis. To use a cliché, Garth needs no introduction. He has served as both a member and Chair of several committees both in ICRI and ACI. He has served on the Board of Directors and on the Executive Committee for at least the last 10 years. While Garth is no stranger to the majority of our membership, he may be to some of our newer members. And if he is, step up and volunteer your services. Garth did! You will not meet a nicer individual—he's a pretty decent golfer as well.

Once again, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks for allowing me to be your President for 2011. It has been a truly enlightening and astonishing year. I wouldn't trade it for the world. "Life should NOT be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive and well-preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways—Pinot Noir in one hand—ICRI Guideline in the other—body thoroughly used up, totally worn out, and screaming 'WOO-HOO, what a ride.'" By the way, did anyone happen to see my little umbrella?

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donald Ford". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

ICRI President, 2011