

## **GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY**

### **Tiberti Builds Las Vegas**

#### **Company Celebrates 50 Years of Business in Construction Industry**

Former Nevada Governor Bob Miller says it best when commenting on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of J.A. Tiberti Construction. “The Tiberti family is one of the oldest in Las Vegas and they figuratively and literally built this city,” he stated. “When Jelindo Angelo Tiberti arrived in Southern Nevada in 1941, he planned to stay a short time to help build Nellis Air Force Base. My father was in the Engineering College at the University of Southern California when the U.S. Corps of Engineers brought a group of engineers to Las Vegas,” said Tito Tiberti, J.A.’s oldest son who is president and chief executive officer of J.A. Tiberti Construction. “The United States was getting ready to enter World War II and the Army Air Corps needed a place to train pilots,” he continued. “Las Vegas was selected as the training site, and a runway had to be built. That’s how Nellis got started, and that’s how my father came here. He rose to chief engineer and when everything was completed in 1945, he decided to stay. By then, he had met my mother, Marietta, who had also been brought out here by the government. She was a nurse working at the old Las Vegas Hospital that was then located downtown behind the El Cortez.” Tiberti stayed with the Corps of Engineers until 1947. Then he and two partners from Seattle opened Waale, Camplan and Tiberti Construction. Three years later, he organized his own company employing two office people and four construction workers. Over the past 50 years, J.A. Tiberti Construction has been responsible for building a wide variety of schools, hotels, warehouses, prisons, banks, grocery stores and department stores. J.A. Tiberti Construction has also completed numerous other projects within the Las Vegas Convention Center, McCarran International Airport and the city of Las Vegas. The list goes on and on. Sometimes what is built has to be torn down and it can be emotional. “We built Club Bingo many years ago which later became the Sahara Hotel,” said Tito Tiberti, “just a few months ago we went back to tear parts of that down to build the NASCAR Café. The rotunda at the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority had to be demolished for an expansion project,” he continued. “Although we did not build the rotunda, for many of us, that building carried a lot of memories. It was a focal point for Las Vegas and what the city was trying to become.” He added, “I remember the Beatles playing there in 1964. We [try not to] personally get attached to what we build, but sometimes you can’t help it.”

Like his father, Tito Tiberti loves his work and considers himself fortunate to be doing what he enjoys. He noted, “Personally, I like the financial end of the business while my father is first and foremost an engineer. He loves building things. He would have given up every steak dinner he ever ate or every suit he ever owned if he could have built Hoover Dam.” Many Sundays, Tito Tiberti and his father drive around the city and J.A. Tiberti can hardly believe his eyes. “He is amazed at the development of the city’s infrastructure, especially the layout of the power, water and sewer lines,” said Tito Tiberti. “If you look closely,” he continued, “you’ll see this valley is seamless when it

comes to the distribution of utilities. One of the great tenets of this city has been the entrepreneurial spirit of private business working with government throughout the years to help make Southern Nevada what it is today.”

The senior Tiberti was involved in that growth sitting on the Las Vegas Planning Commission for 25 years and serving on Nevada Power’s Board of Directors for 38 years. “Las Vegas is bigger than anything I ever imagined,” said J.A. Tiberti. His love for engineering and education can be found in the \$1M seed money he donated in 1979 to help create the current Howard R. Hughes College of Engineering at UNLV. Inside the Richard Tam Alumni Center at UNLV is the Marietta Tiberti Grand Hall. There is also a nursing scholarship at UNLV in honor of Marietta Tiberti. Other organizations that have benefited from the family’s donations and contributions include Opportunity Village, Nevada Ballet Theater, American Cancer Society, Bishop Gorman High School and the Boy Scouts. J.A. Tiberti Construction also built Camp Potosi for the Boy Scouts, Boulder Dam Area Council.

The Tiberti family remains close. J.A. is 81; Marietta passed away in 1987 at the age of 67, Tito, 55 is the oldest son. His five siblings are: Lara, 53, Andra, 51, Renaldo, 49, Mario, 46 and Jelindo, 40. There are twenty-one grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. “Everyone comes to my house for Christmas Eve,” said Tito Tiberti. “Along with some other close personal friend, we usually get about 60. On Easter we all go to Jelindo’s house and then on Thanksgiving, it’s Andra’s turn.

J.A. Tiberti Construction continues to invest in the city and there is another generation of Tibertis waiting to get involved in the company. “I want to add a few more elements to the company such as design and renovation,” said Tito Tiberti. “Right now, I’m focused on buying the old stone house in Northern Italy where my grandfather was born. It’s up in the Alps near Lake Como. My dad’s third cousin is living there now and she’s 85. I want to buy it and ask my kids to renovate the windows and plumbing and just fix it up a little,” he continued. “It would keep the heritage if the family alive.”

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