

*From the President's Address at the Installation Banquet:*

The first membership meeting that I attended was almost 5 years ago, and I was in awe that here was a group of all the builders that I knew by name, but had never met. Here were my idols, my heroes, don't laugh I know . . . now I have gotten to know many of you better, it sounds funny. But for me rubbing shoulders with builders like Fred Shore, Barry Rutenberg, Phil Emmer, Luis Diaz, Tommy Waters and Chuck Perry truly made me feel like this was a different and unique organization. I appreciate what the Builders Association offers its members, what it has offered me, opportunity to be part of a great building heritage.

The founders of this association believed that were better together than apart. That holds especially true now that our industry is being tested. We built this community, and shaped it based on our own values. Values in home ownership, architectural harmony, open green spaces and environmental stewardship have guided this association's membership from its inception. We built our community this way not because it was mandated or dictated but because we knew that it made good business sense and it made for a better place for us all to live in.

A great deal has changed in our industry over the course of the last year, and a lot has changed in our economy and in our country. The Builders Association of North Central Florida and its members have experienced and overcome change before and we will get through this time also by standing strong together.

I know how tough this year has been for many of you, believe me I know. A hero of mine the late George Carlin had a great attitude on life which has helped me keep it all in perspective. He described himself as a modern man by saying "I take it slow; I go with the flow; I ride with the tide; I got glide in my stride; driving and moving, sailing and spinning, jiving and grooving, wailing and winning. I don't snooze, so I don't lose. I keep the pedal to the metal and the rubber on the road."

Not only do I feel like a modern man, but a modern builder.

I am modern builder, I know the building official, the building inspectors, the growth management director, the plans examiners, the development review committee, the public works inspectors, the environmental protectors, and a few growth objectors.

I been red tagged, approved as noted, disapproved as noted, re-feed, re-inspected, impact feed, had plans rejected, but still unaffected.

A building inspector I've debated, gotten the building department agitated and start most days overly caffeinated.

I have an iphone 3G, with MP3s, has caller ID, gets voice mail, text mail, email, and will drop my critical calls, without fail.

I build village homes, club homes, side entry homes, rear entry homes, single story homes, two story homes, zero lot line homes, last year we built 8 parade homes, I definitely have had nightmares about dream homes.

I am a modern builder

A few facts: the strongest areas of the economy for job retention and growth for the future just happen to be in academics and medicine. Don't forget that we are in one of the best possible places for a stable housing market into the future. By the way have all of you driven down to the Eastern end of Archer Road Lately? When I see those tower cranes and all the empty office windows of the hospitals I know that there are at a whole lot of people coming to town that will be our customers, given home loans, who which lease apartments, and will buy homes. Those new buildings give me great confidence in things to come.

We need to continue to make a difference in our community and learn how to disagree without being disagreeable - that it's possible to compromise so long as you know those principles that can never be compromised; and that so long as we're willing to listen to each other and work together.

I love this industry, and I love this association and I believe in it. I look forward to serving you.

---Adam Bolton, 12-12-08