

IN MEMORIAM

Coatings Expert Eric Kline Dies

Eric Kline, former executive vice president and senior coatings consultant for KTA-Tator, passed away July 31 after fighting battles with several life-threatening diseases. He was 71.

Born in Belton, Texas, on November 17, 1943, Kline graduated from the Milton Hershey School in Hershey, Pa., and attended Ursinus College in Collegeville, Pa., where he earned a BS in chemistry and also met his future wife, Suzanne. He went on to earn an MBA from the University of Pittsburgh.

Kline spent the majority of his career with the Fort Pitt Bridge Works in Canonsburg, Pa., and KTA in Pittsburgh. He retired from the latter in 2009 after nearly 30 years of service but continued there as a technical advisor and goodwill ambassador. An advocate for youth throughout his life, Eric coached a Canonsburg Little League Baseball team, served multiple terms on the Canon McMillan School Board, served on the Try Again Homes advisory board and supported candidate identification for attendance at the Milton Hershey School. A community advocate, he was the longtime Chairman of the Canonsburg-Houston Joint Sewer Authority (which he affectionately called the “poop group”), a member of the Canonsburg Re-development Authority, a past member of the Canonsburg Hospital Board and a current member of the Board of Review.

While at KTA, Eric became a prolific lecturer and author, seeking solutions to corrosion issues plaguing the coatings industry. His natural manner and showman-

ship made him a popular instructor for KTA’s training programs as well as a favorite presenter at technical conferences. Spawned by his early exposure to the bridge industry, Eric focused much of his attention on the protection and preservation of steel bridges. His work with KTA and involvement in various industry organizations gave him a platform to innovate and share ideas that have become industry standards. Eric received numerous awards from the industry that he dedicated his life and passion to, including the SSPC Honorary Life Member Award (2008) and the SSPC John D. Keane Award of Merit (2003), as well as AISC’s Lifetime Achievement Award in 2014. He was also named an industry Top Thinker in 2009 by *JPC* magazine.

Eric is survived by his wife, Suzanne; his daughters Mary Beth Kline and Deborah Schwab; sons Michael, Jonathan and David; and grandchildren Mason, Evan, Isaiah, Abigail, Eric, Brandon, Stephen and Elizabeth.



WELDING

AWS Introduces New Career Management System

The American Welding Society (AWS) has launched WeldLink, a career planning and management system specifically designed to bring together those involved with the welding industry.

The system is designed to address the complete life-cycle of professional welder development. It allows individuals to create an online profile that will aid them in mapping their current skills and knowledge by tracking certifications, education and

work history, then uses that information to match them with welding career paths, locate welding programs and directly enroll in training programs through AWS Learning, AWS’ online education program. Users can also view and apply for open welding positions at hiring companies.

WeldLink is now available to all AWS members as well as the general welding community. For more information and to create a profile, visit www.awsweldlink.org.

People and Firms

• **SSPC: The Society For Protective Coatings** has announced the appointment of **William M. Worms** as executive director, effective September 1, 2015. Worms will succeed **William (Bill) Shoup**, who is retiring with over 15 years of distinguished service.

Worms, a Pittsburgh native, joins SSPC following a more than 25-year career with Bayer MaterialScience. In his most recent role as vice president of commercial operations, Worms led the sales, operational marketing and strategy development efforts of **Bayer’s** Polyurethanes Raw Material Sales business. While at Bayer, Worms served as a board member of BayOne Joint Venture and as past Chair of the Bayer United Way Campaign. Worms’ personal commitment to philanthropy led him to becoming the President of the Board of Directors for the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden, an organization with which he will continue to serve.

“The Board of Governors is thrilled that our search led us to Bill Worms, and we enthusiastically welcome him as our new Executive Director,” said **Jim King**, president of the SSPC Board of Governors. “As SSPC continues into the future, it is important that the organization continues to have a strong leader to meet the growing needs of our membership. Bill Worms is such a leader.”

“I’m excited and honored to be chosen to lead such a prestigious organization,” said Worms. “SSPC is poised for continued growth in both North America and internationally. I look forward to building on the foundation established by Bill Shoup and the SSPC staff to meet the needs of our growing membership.”

BRIDGES

DOT Releases Bridge and Road Condition Data by State

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) recently released data about the road and bridge conditions for each state. The data shows that nearly half the country's roads and more than 25% of its bridges are in "poor" condition, and this is costing each motorist an average of \$300 annually.

The Highway Trust Fund expired on July 31, and the DOT said that without action from Congress, federal funding for transportation will come to a screeching halt—and with it, so will traffic in many places. Over the last six years, Congress has passed 33 short-term measures rather

than funding transportation for the long term. And our transportation system—roads and bridges, especially—is in a dire state of disrepair because of it. Experts agree that the only way to prepare our transportation system for the next generation is to stop this cycle of short-term measures and pass a long-term transportation bill, said the DOT.

"The expected level of funding is a serious long-term problem," commented Pat Loftus, chairman emeritus and legislative consultant for the National Steel Bridge Alliance. "The \$50-billion-per-year funding level is inadequate to maintain the

current infrastructure. If we want to both maintain and expand our nation's transportation capabilities, a funding level of between \$70 and \$90 billion is required."

States will increasingly turn to alternate funding strategies, including public-private partnerships, an expansion of toll roads and private financing. Loftus says it is critical for the industry to be proactive in contacting elected government representatives and letting them know how important it is to enact a long-term infrastructure solution.

For more information, visit www.transportation.gov.

NSBA

NSBA Continuous Span Standards Now Available

The National Steel Bridge Alliance (NSBA) has released its *Continuous Span Standards for Steel Plate Girder Bridges*. Developed to assist engineers and contractors during the type, size and location (TS&L) phase of projects, the free standards offer conceptual solutions for three-span bridges with center spans between 150 ft and 300 ft and balanced end spans at 78% of the main span length.

"*Continuous Span Standards for Steel Plate Girder Bridges* is designed to help mitigate the inherent risk in using preliminary designs for schedule, initial cost

and cost growth estimates," said Bill McEleney, NSBA managing director.

All information is captured in easy-to-understand tables. Tabulated information includes: flange and web plate sizes, diaphragm spacing, intermediate stiffener locations, shear stud spacing, camber tables, girder weights and total weights. Girder spacing ranges from 7.5 ft to 12 ft with homogeneous and hybrid plate solutions are available.

"If you can't find a standard that matches your project's geometry, we've included the NSBA LRFD Simon input files that were used to build the standards," added

McEleney. "Just find the corresponding file, open it in the free LRFD Simon software, change the geometry and/or loading requirements and run the software. LRFD Simon provides a complete output of the required information."

The standards simplify the process for selecting a girder size and can be used to propose preliminary design on bid day, yet are accurate enough to keep cost growth in check once the project has been won and final designs are completed.

For more information and to download a free copy of the standards, visit www.steelbridges.org/spanstandards.

PROJECTS

New Hotel a Grand Addition to L.A. Skyline

The new 1,100-ft-tall Wilshire Grand in Los Angeles will be the tallest structure in the Western U.S. when completed in 2017.

The 73-story steel-framed tower will house a luxury hotel on the upper floors and offices on the lower floors. A five-story podium will include retail and dining options, and the building will include five levels of subterranean parking.

The first building of any height in downtown L.A. to be constructed without a flat roof, the tower is built to withstand severe earthquakes. Thornton Tomasetti provided structural engineering and

performance-based design services to engineer-of-record Brandow and Johnston. The building's gravity system consists of a concrete core wall with concrete-filled steel box columns (called buckling-restrained braces, or BRBs) and structural steel framing outside the footprint of the core. The BRBs are used as the outriggers supporting the concrete core.

Schuff Steel (an AISC Member/Certified fabricator/Advanced Certified Steel Erector) is fabricating and erecting the structural steel for the project.



STEELDAY

Seventh Successive SteelDay Scheduled for September 25

The structural steel industry's largest networking and educational function returns for a seventh successive year on Friday, September 25. Once again, the nationwide event will provide free opportunities around the country to celebrate and educate on the domestic structural steel industry, and this year's event offers more ways to get involved than ever before.

In addition to steel facility tours and open houses that continually serve as an invaluable experience for everyone to see the industry's latest processes and technologies firsthand, SteelDay features custom learning opportunities for engineers and architects—and you won't even have to leave your office.

"This year it's easier than ever to get involved in SteelDay," said Ross Allbritton, AISC's industry mobilization manager. "So easy, in fact, that a major part of it is being delivered directly to you, right in your own office."

You'll be able to take a virtual voyage in steel with the free lunch and learn webinar "Steel and the Phantasmagoria," presented by Charlie Carter, S.E., P.E., Ph.D., AISC's vice president and chief structural engineer. You'll explore the recent advances that are improving the material and the methods we use to design and construct steel buildings, as well as journey through some of the ingenious steel solutions that have resulted in great buildings. You'll also gain an insight into the wealth of information avail-

able to help you tame the phantasmagoria. In addition, AISC will provide Domino's pizza on SteelDay for the first 1,000 structural engineering offices to register for the webinar! To sign up, go to www.steelday.org/webinar.

AISC will also premiere its new short film *Architecturally Exposed*, a documentary on the art and science of architecturally exposed structural steel (AESS) and curved steel featuring Terri Meyer Boake, professor of architecture at the University of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada. The video will be available for free online streaming or download on SteelDay.

To find and register for a SteelDay event, please visit www.steelday.org.