

Helping to build a better world one house at a time

Darryl Crane
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A local businessman recently received a special award for his humanitarian work.

David Ratzlaff, owner and president of HR Pacific Construction Management Ltd., accepted the Herman Rebneris Award at the Canadian Home Builder's Association (CHBA) of BC Presidents' Night.

The award is named after Herman Rebneris, a builder and an advocate

who fought to end homelessness, and championed affordable housing for families and seniors in Greater Victoria for more than four decades.

Ratzlaff was nominated by workers at his office for the award.

"It is funny because for me it is a lifestyle I have chosen. To be involved in different charities is just what I do," he said.

Ratzlaff credited his parents, John and Helen, for much of the work he now does.

"They were always

involved in something. So for me to receive an award is odd because I think everyone is doing things like this," he said. "If you see a need you help out."

One of the charities Ratzlaff is involved with is Bridges to Community.

"For every house we build here, we then build a house in Nicaragua. We have sent teams there before and in November my wife and I are going there to help build a school," he said.

Ratzlaff said he is challenged by seeing all of the great things other people are doing and in some way he hopes he can inspire people to do more to help.

He added that it was an honour to win the award but that is not why he does his charity work.

He said that some of the people who work for his company have gone to other countries and had life changing experiences.

"To go to a place and see how much we have here. You can sit and complain about everything you don't have but if you go there you realize how much we have here," Ratzlaff said.

Ratzlaff plans to continue to be involved in projects as time goes on and is hopeful to get even more people involved in charitable work.



David Ratzlaff holds the Herman Rebneris Award which he received at the Canadian Home Builder's Association of BC Presidents' Night. *Darryl Crane/Star Photo*

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A fundraiser in support of the Golden Food Bank
 For information, contact the Golden Food Bank: 250-344-2113

35th National Police and Peace Officers' Memorial

David Wilks
 MLA Kootenay-Columbia

On the last Sunday of September every year police and peace officers from across North America converge upon Ottawa to pay their respects to those who have fallen in the line of duty.

Known as National Police/Peace Officers' Memorial Day, it is a day filled with camaraderie and memories of good friends and colleagues who have paid the ultimate sacrifice so we Canadians can live in one of the safest countries in the world.

Their names are forever etched on the glass panels erected along the perimeter wall adjacent to the Memorial Pavilion which now totals 826 fallen officers. The Service is a lasting tribute to the sacrifice of those brave men and women.

"THEY ARE OUR HEROES, WE SHALL NOT FORGET THEM."

For the past two years I have attended this ceremony. With well over 1,000 police officers in attendance it is quite a sight to see.

I was honoured to



MLA David Wilks (pictured on the far right) at the National Police/Peace Officers' Memorial Day in Ottawa. *Photo Submitted*

attend this year in my Red Serge. As I stood in front of the Memorial Wall, specifically at plaque 16 name 20, it brought back fond memories working with Michael Budey who was killed in March of 1985 near Teslin, B.C.

The time has gone by so quickly but I remember the valuable lessons I learned from Michael as if it were yesterday.

The police/peace officers who attend this ceremony each year come with their own memories.

It is those memories that keep each police/peace officer well aware of the dangers involved in their chosen profession and to live life to its fullest.

I would personally like to thank each one of them for their service.