



JAMES J. WILLIS CRAFTPERSON OF THE YEAR AWARD



James J. Willis, Sr.

The **James J. Willis Craftperson of the Year Award** honors outstanding labor-management cooperation and quality craftsmanship in the construction industry. It is given to building trades members who have a gift for recognizing the vision of a project and can bring that vision — from blueprint to building — to fruition in a professional manner. Apprentices, journeymen, foremen and general foremen from all crafts are eligible for nomination.

The recognition program was originally created in 1989 as the Craftsman of the Year Award. TAUC changed the name in 2008 to memorialize James J. Willis, Sr. He was a dear friend and supporter of TAUC and an authentic leader within the construction industry for more than five decades.

Jim started out as an apprentice ironworker in 1945 at the age of just 16 and eventually rose to the rank of First General Vice President within the international union. He also served as President and Labor Co-Chairman of the National Maintenance Agreements Policy Committee, Inc. (NMAPC) from 1988-2000.

Jim was hugely influential within the union construction industry, and his steadfast commitment to fairness and cooperation was legendary. It is fitting that the award bearing his name honors a union worker who demonstrates unparalleled leadership and professionalism, because Jim exhibited the same qualities throughout his life.