

The NFSI is proud to announce three new awards to be given to three different individuals or organizations. The first award is that of the Chairman's award and is awarded to a member of the NFSI's Board of Directors or Advisory Board of Directors who has demonstrated an unrivaled commitment to the mission of the NFSI.

Two additional "Spirit awards" were presented to a property owner and a product manufacturer, each of which has embraced the true mission or "Spirit" of the NFSI and has demonstrated a significant reduction in slip-and-fall claim.

Each of the three sculptures were commissioned by Bennett Galleries of Placerville, California and were designed by its founder, Bob Bennett. Each sculpture reflects the spirit of those recipients who are willing to reach upward, beyond their comfort zone, and serve as a beacon to others in their industry. Not just because its good business, but good for people.

Nominations for next year's Spirit awards are now available. Nominations can be submitted by completing the application below.

Chairman's Award

The NFSI was founded 10 years ago and over the past decade there have been a number of individuals who have made a big impact in the area of walkway safety including each member of the NFSI's Board of Directors who have collectively been the backbone of the NFSI's success. In conjunction with the NFSI's 10 year anniversary, Russell Kendzior, Founder and Chairman of the Board, had presented the institutes first Chairman's award to a member of the NFSI's Board of Directors. The 2007 recipient of the Chairman's award was presented to Mr. Steve Spencer, Facilities Specialist for State Farm Insurance located in Bloomington, Illinois.

"The choice of whom to present this award was not easy" states Kendzior. "Each and every member of the NFSI's board has made a significant contribution either by their direct investment in time, financial or in championing awareness to the growing slip-and-fall crisis".

Steve has served on the board of directors for nearly five years and currently serves as its Vice President. "Steve has been the "go to guy" for tough projects and has volunteered hundreds of hours of his time training

others both within his company as well as other organizations”. Steve has delivered a series of training programs on behalf of the NFSI to organizations like the National Safety Council, ISSA, and numerous trade associations. He has written numerous articles and stories on the subject of slip-and-fall prevention and has inspired many within his industry as to the benefits of preventing such accidents. He has been a committed warrior in the battle to reduce slip and fall accidents. Steve was named as the “2006 Person of the year” by the Cleaning Management Institute (CMI) and embodies the true spirit of the NFSI.

Spirit Award recipient in the category of a property owner

The NFSI’s Spirit award is given annually to a property owner who has demonstrated a significant reduction in slip-and-fall accident claims via the use of NFSI Certified products, training programs, or walkway auditing guidelines. The 2007 Spirit award in the category of a property owner to Mr. Brian Siegel, Vice President of Westgate Resorts in Orlando, Florida.

From a tiny orange grove and the dream of a man working out of his garage, Westgate Resorts and its parent company, Central Florida Investments (CFI), have grown into the largest privately-held timeshare company in the world employing over 10,000 people the United States.

Their Mission is to provide affordable luxury vacations with first-class accommodations to their owners and guests and have striven to be the leader in the hospitality industry by constantly focusing their efforts on understanding their customer's needs and exceeding their expectations.

“Their Motto of *Good enough, is never good enough!* is one reason why they have risen to the pinnacle of their industry” says Russell Kendzior, Founder and Chairman of the Board of the NFSI.

Creating unrivaled customer loyalty is the hallmark of the Westgate’s philosophy. Their Chairman and CEO: David A. Siegel stated that “they regularly evaluate and assess the needs of their owners and guests, and understand that they are not customers, they are family”. Westgate’s commitment goes beyond words and right into action. In a time where most companies accept slip and fall claims as a cost of doing business, Westgate chose a different path. David Siegel believes that “the health and

safety of our owners and employees is paramount and has served as the cornerstone of Westgate's corporate philosophy.

"They have proven that most slips and fall events can be prevented and have been doing so for years" says Kendzior. Several years ago, Westgate invested in an ambitious task of eliminating guest and employee slips and falls on their property and over the past two years have seen their slip and fall claims drop by more than 96%. A very impressive reduction considering they serve over 2 million check-ins each year. "For those property owners who say that slips and falls cannot be prevented I suggest they talk to Brian Siegel".

Spirit Award in the category of a product manufacturer

The NFSI's Spirit award is given annually to a manufacturer whose products have demonstrated a significant reduction in preventing slip-and-fall accidents. The 2007 Spirit award in the category of a product manufacturer was presented to Ms. Pat Fisher, President of Nu Safe Floor Solutions, Inc., located in Walton, Kentucky.

"The mission of Nu Safe is simple and that is to provide their customers a unique holistic floor safety program focused on their partners' needs and to offer high quality products and service. In doing such, they have prevented countless numbers of slip-and-fall related injuries saving their customers millions of dollars in reduced injury claims." States NFSI's Founder and Chairman of the Board Russell Kendzior.

"They create partnerships by offering a comprehensive approach to reducing slips-and-falls and have been doing so for more than twelve years." Nu Safe, Inc. is an International producer of various chemical treatments and cleaning agents designed to prevent slip-and-fall accidents. Nu Safe has developed a unique approach to slip-and-fall prevention which includes:

A comprehensive line of floor cleaners and treatments the floor with a chemical that does not change or alter the aesthetics of the floor. Periodic, customized walkway audits which insures that their customers floors are

being maintained properly. Many of Nu-Safe's technicians have been NFSI Certified as slip and fall prevention specialists.