

Congratulations are extended to three contractors from the Mobile Section of AlabamaAGC who were honored at the 9th Annual Build Alabama Awards Banquet on January 4th at "The Club" in Birmingham.

Chartered in 1920, the Alabama AGC has had an annual event for over 60 years, but the Alabama AGC Board of Directors started the Build Alabama Awards in 1999 to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of the construction industry. More than 450 were on hand as AGC members from the Shoals to Mobile and Pensacola, FL were recognized for their outstanding safety records and for their skill in building some interesting and complex construction projects.

"Our state is extremely lucky to have so many highly skilled, responsible contractors working to build a better Alabama," said Alabama AGC Executive President Henry T. Hagood, Jr. "Their work is highly visible. When we see an AGC emblem on a jobsite sign we know that a contractor with integrity and skill is building the project."

### [Norman Walton Inducted in Alabama Construction Hall of Fame](#)

The Alabama AGC established the [Alabama Construction Hall of Fame](#) to honor and recognize outstanding individuals in the construction industry. These individuals are held in esteem by their peers and have demonstrated their professionalism through active support of the industry through their civic and community involvement.

Congratulations are extended to Norman Walton with J. S. Walton & Co., for his induction into the Alabama Construction Hall of Fame. Mr. Walton is the third generation to lead J. S. Walton, one of the state's oldest heavy, highway and industrial contractors. The company was founded in Kentucky in 1919 and moved to Mobile in the 1920s. Mr. Walton has helped continue the company's tradition of excellence and safety and has been deeply involved in the industry and the community. Mr. Walton has served as President of the local Mobile Section as well as AlabamaAGC President and as Chairman of the National AGC Heavy & Highway Division. J. S. Walton & Co., Inc. actively supports the Mobile Section and AlabamaAGC; the Mobile County Road Builders Association, and the Alabama Road Builders Association; the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce; the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission, and the Mobile Area Boy Scouts. Mr. Walton has been instrumental in building the AlabamaAGC into one of the most respected Chapters in the nation.

## Winning in the Category of New Heavy Industrial Construction was

**Rob't J. Baggett, Inc.**

for the CGR Rail Ferry.

After Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast, the U. S. Army Corp. of Engineers closed the Mississippi River outlet to deep-draft shipping. That meant International Shipholding Corp. had to quickly relocate the only U. S. to Mexico rail car ferry terminal. Reconstruction of the New Orleans facility included intermodal railroad relocation, geometry changes to ASD Boulevard, storm water management and the construction of the elevated railroad deck, plus on-grade rails and bridges. In order to re-establish rail ferry service as soon as possible, construction had to begin long before design could be completed. Crews worked seven days a week. Coordination was essential from the start. During site clearing, more than 500 timber piles and over 100 Raymond piles had to be removed. Previously fabricated material had to be retrofitted to fit the new geometry of a greater depth. Ten sixty-ton loading ramps as well as several thousand tons of additional steel and construction materials had to be moved to Mobile. Cooperation with other contractors and the Alabama State Port Authority established the new CGR Rail Ferry System on time and enhanced with a hydraulic ramp lifting system.

## Winning in the Category of Renovation Building Construction was

**White-Spinner Construction, Inc.**

for the RSA Battle House Hotel.

The Battle House Hotel was a focal point of society in Mobile from its opening in 1852 until its closing in 1974. Restoration of this treasured landmark was supported by a grassroots effort in a unique partnership with RSA. The original 8 story cast in place concrete structure survived two fires. Ironically, its restoration endured 5 hurricanes, a tropical storm and the collapse of a support column in the basement. The fourth through seventh floors were built out as hotel space. The third floor was converted into meeting rooms while the second floor became an exhibition kitchen. A low rise Grand Ballroom now connects the old Battle House to the New Tower. Historic architectural details, the type no longer created in modern buildings, such as stained glass from the original lobby dome and decorative plaster, were saved where possible. Workers meticulously crafted matching replacements for missing or damaged pieces. The work was so specialized that craftsmen made their own tools to address intricate detail work. The most significant contribution to the community is simply restoring this treasured landmark.