



Hilltop Basic Resources, Inc.  
Hilltop Concrete  
Maysville Ready Mix  
Hilltop Stone, LLC  
Hilltop Big Bend Quarry, LLC  
Cincinnati Marine, Ltd. Co.

### **Hilltop Companies Mourns the Loss of Cincinnati Great, John Steele, Sr.**

John F. Steele, Sr. passed away on April 12<sup>th</sup>, Easter Sunday, at the age of 95. John entered the family business in 1948 following his graduation from Dartmouth College and after serving our country during World War II piloting TBM Avengers from Aircraft Carriers in the South Pacific. At a very young age John assumed leadership of the Company which was started by his parents. John steered the Company through a period of strategic growth over several decades before he transitioned leadership to his son, John Steele, Jr. in the late 1990's. John remained active in the Company as Vice Chairman and Strategic Advisor.

"We are proud of him, who he was as a person, and of all that he has accomplished. He has been the steady rock and heart and soul of our family for a very long time" said John Steele, Jr., Chairman and Chief Executive Officer for Hilltop Companies. "His work in his family company meant everything to him and he remained active into his 90's, never losing his strong work ethic."

Under John's leadership, Hilltop expanded its service area significantly for both Ready Mix Concrete and Aggregates, now spanning Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky and West Virginia. John led the team to build some of the biggest and most complex projects the Cincinnati region has ever undertaken; including the Miami Fort and Zimmer Power Plants, Riverfront Stadium, I-471 Bridge and Central Street Bridge. His visionary leadership style inspired his successors to continue to deliver quality projects including Great American Tower, Great American Ballpark, Paul Brown Stadium, Fort Washington Way, and many others that make up the Cincinnati skyline.

Throughout his lifetime, John was very involved in the community and industry. He supported and served as a board member of many organizations, including Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Cincinnati, University of Cincinnati College of Nursing, The Cincinnati Art Museum, The University Club of Cincinnati, and the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce. John earned the rank of Life Scout as a child and in 2015, Senator Rob Portman presented him the Honoree award at the Eagle Scout Court of Honor commemorating his life-time commitment supporting the Boy Scouts of America. In 1998 he received the Spirit of Construction award from the construction industry of Greater Cincinnati. In 2016 he was inducted into the Greater Cincinnati Business Hall of Fame and in 2018 he was recognized as a Great Living Cincinnati by the Cincinnati Regional Chamber.

"We are all saddened to hear of the passing of John, Sr.," said Kevin Sheehan, President and COO of Hilltop Companies. "John's career and accomplishments are legendary. As impressive as his accomplishments both inside and outside the Company are, his impact on the employees of Hilltop are even greater. He understood that the employees were the core of the company and that success in the industry begins and ends with people. Those of us who had the privilege of working with John knew him as a wonderful person, a gentleman in every sense of the word who truly cared about people and had the ability to make all he met feel special. His presence in the Hilltop offices and sites will be greatly missed. Our hearts go out to the entire Steele Family as we all mourn the loss of John."

For more information on John's life, please watch the video created when he was honored as a Great Living Cincinnati here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k7zppKeyITU>

There will be a Celebration of Life and reception at a later date. Donations may be made in John Steele's memory to The Salvation Army, 114 E. Central Parkway, Cincinnati, OH 45202.