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The Moles
PRESS RELEASE

JOHN L. KOLAYA selected for Outstanding Achievement Awards by The Moles, a National Construction Organization.

John L. Kolaya, President and Chief Operating Officer of Yonkers Contracting Co., Inc., has been selected for top honors by The Moles, one of the industry’s foremost construction organizations. Kolaya has a distinguished career in the heavy construction industry.

John Kolaya earned his bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from Bucknell University (’70) and his masters degree from Rutgers University (’75). Beginning his career in 1970 as a project engineer in the NYC subways with Thomas Crimmins Contracting Company, he quickly rose through the ranks running many complex rock and deep earth foundation projects. In 1979, he became General Superintendent at Crimmins, overseeing deep foundation work on such projects as Trump Tower, 60 Wall Street, and the original 7 World Trade Center.

In 1987, Kolaya joined Yonkers Contracting Company, as VP of Crimmins Constructors, a newly formed subsidiary. Kolaya was quickly transferred to Yonkers’ Heavy Construction Division. While overseeing the reconstruction of the Queens Midtown Viaduct, John was awarded a Medal of Excellence from Engineering News Record for his design of a temporary bridge bearing system. Kolaya received further industry acclaim for his management of the Manhattan Bridge, where he negotiated the first incentive bonus from the NYC DOT and for his advisory position with the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in their research into methods to reduce worker exposure to lead.

In 1996, Kolaya was promoted to Vice President of Construction at Yonkers, overseeing over $500 million in contracts including several NYC bridges, Penn Station and Grand Central station. In 1999, John was promoted to Executive Vice President. After the tragic events of 9/11, John was actively involved in its cleanup and became the EIC for the reconstruction of the PATH Train Services. John was promoted to President and Chief Operating Officer in January 2013.

John is a Licensed Professional Engineer in New Jersey, a Fellow in the ASCE, serves on the Executive Committee of the GCA (NY), is an active member and past President of the Moles (2004) and a member of Chi Epsilon Engineering Honor Society. John’s commitment to mentoring future engineers is evidenced by his development of The Moles’ Career Connection, serving as a past curriculum advisor at Manhattan College and Bucknell University and lecturing students. John received the ACE’s Mentor of the Year award in 2011 for his mentoring efforts at Riverside High School in Yonkers, NY.

Kolaya will accept The Moles Member Award presented at the at The Moles’ Annual Award dinner on Wednesday, January 29, 2014.

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