

Building association honors president emeritus

James S. Bonadeo, president emeritus of the Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan, is one great guy, according to colleagues and friends who recently toasted his 50 years in the business with a testimonial dinner.

Bonadeo, 80, a Plymouth resident and still active in residential construction, served as president of the association for three years, 1989 through 1991.

He's the only person to serve as president for more than one year since the association's founding in 1928.

"I enjoy everything I just did," Bonadeo says of his active lifestyle. "Probably the most enjoyable part was when I used to build 10 custom homes a year. I got to meet people and you became friends with them."

A plumber by training, Bonadeo figures he's built thousands of houses in suburban Detroit. He was especially active in Redford early in his career.



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ment in the city in years.

Bonadeo also has been active in charity and civic work including Boys Town of Italy and Madonna University.

Bonadeo, who credits much of his success to "some terrific people working for me," said he has no plans to retire.

"I promised my wife, Earlene, after 80 I'd slow down to 40 hours a week. She chided me recently saying, 'You've been 80 for four weeks and you haven't

slowed down yet!'"

The couple enjoys extensive traveling.

A daughter, Nancy, and son, Mark, have been involved in the construction business during various stages of their lives.

Proceeds from the testimonial will be used to establish a scholarship in Bonadeo's name for students interested in a building career. A portion also will be used for political action on behalf

of property rights.

"Jim has told me that one of the most gratifying parts of his business is the second- and third-time buyers he sees," said

Gilbert "Buzz" Silverman, a Farmington Hills builder and current BIA president.

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