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Title: PA. CHAMBER NAMES HIGH TOP BUSINESS LEADER OF '99

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Local businessman S. Dale High has been named "1999 Business Leader of the Year" by the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry.

High, chairman and president of High Industries Inc., is the second Lancaster County resident to win the coveted honor in its 15-year history. He follows Lancaster Laboratories founder Earl H. Hess, who in 1988 won the award which recognizes leadership in creating jobs, developing businesses and community involvement.

State chamber president Floyd Warner lauded High, 57, of Lancaster, for extending the values instilled in his firm by its founder, his father, Sanford H. High.

"Continuing and expanding on the traditions of building trustworthy relationships and being innovative leaders, combined with a steadfast commitment to the highest ethical standards, makes Dale High an outstanding choice for (this award)," Warner said in a news release.

High was unavailable for comment this morning. In a prepared statement, he called his selection "a distinct honor and a privilege."

Sanford High started the family business in 1931 as High Welding Co. When Dale High was hired in 1963, it was a 60-employee firm focused on welding and steel fabricating.

Since then, High helped grow the core business - now named High Steel Structures Inc. - into the nation's largest fabricator and erector of steel highway-bridge components.

Meanwhile, he helped guide the business into many new fields, including making precast concrete for parking garages and buildings, real estate development and management, and various business services.

When High Industries was formed in 1978, to serve as the corporate umbrella for a steadily expanding number of ventures, High was named chairman and president.

Today, 15 divisions and affiliates with about 2,300 employees operate under the High Industries banner. The conglomerate is headquartered in the Greenfield Corporate Center, a High Industries project.

High has long been active in civic affairs, including serving the state chamber in various capacities. A

director since 1991, he now is its treasurer and a member of its executive committee.

In the past, High has been the state chamber's vice chairman and chairman of its political action committee, Chamber PAC.

His additional community involvement includes serving as a trustee of Elizabethtown College and co-founder of its Family Business Center, a founding director of the Lancaster Alliance and a member of Gov. Ridge's Sound Land Use Advisory Commission, among many other roles.

His extensive public service has won him awards from groups as varied as the Boy Scouts, Junior Achievement and The Lancaster Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

The state chamber award will be presented to High on Monday, Sept. 13 at the organization's annual dinner, to be held at the Hershey Convention Center