

MARCH 2024

THE TVIB BRIEF

THE MAN BEHIND THE AWARD



Captain Mike Rushing
Rushing Marine Service, LLC
1943-2023

Michael "Mike" Woodrow Rushing is one of TVIB's founding members. He is known for his selfless nature, he dedicated his life to helping those around him. His affinity for river life stemmed from his upbringing, influenced by his father, who held the position of General Manager at Missouri Barge Line Company, Inc. Starting at the age of 12, he spent his summer breaks working on towboats, culminating in his attainment of the position of Pilot in 1963.

After serving in the U.S. Army from 1967 to 1969, Mike returned to work for Missouri Barge Line, eventually becoming Port Captain and Operations Manager. In 1979, he co-founded Rushing Marine Corporation with his father, later becoming Executive Vice President of MEMCO Barge Line and establishing Rushing Marine Service, LLC, where he worked alongside his son Todd until his passing.

Mike was deeply involved in his community and church, serving on the Church Council and as Lay Leader at New McKendree United Methodist Church. He dedicated himself to the Breaking Bonds Addiction Recovery Ministry, offering guidance and support to men in need. Known for his inspirational quotes, fondly called "Mike-isms," he made a lasting impact on those around him.

An avid supporter of scouting, Mike served on Wood Badge Staffs and as Course Director, earning the Silver Beaver Award in 2007. He was also passionate about the Soap Box Derby, actively involved since 2000 and inducted into the All-American Soap Box Derby Hall of Fame in 2022. He mentored children in building and racing cars, emphasizing character development over competition.

In honor of his parents, Mike helped establish the Rushing Family Trust, which organizes the annual "Captain Woody" Golf Tournament, raising over \$500,000 for charity over 25 years.

Mike Rushing's life was defined by his selfless dedication to others, leaving a legacy of kindness, service, and generosity that will be cherished by all who knew him.

Nominations

Please visit [our webpage](#) for a full description of eligibility requirements, and details on submitting your nominations.

Deadline for submission is March 15th.

Have Questions?

To access our full list of FAQs, please visit our website [here](#).

Suggestions?

We would love to hear from you! Submit your idea for hot topics or FAQs to info@thetvib.org or dial 832.323.3992.

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Annual Survey of Towing Vessels Course

Join us from April 9-11 in Houston, TX for our first ASTV course of 2024! Click for more info.

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Mike Rushing Legacy Service Award

The **Mike Rushing Legacy Service Award** was developed to honor individuals who embody those characteristics and traits modeled by Mike throughout his life. The honoree selected will serve as a role model for compassion, service, and passion for their community both at home and in the industry. The recipient will be honored during a presentation at the **Waterways Journal Annual Inland Marine Expo (IMX)** trade show. A financial contribution to the **Seamen's Church Institute Ministry on the River** program will be made in honor of the recipient.

Community Service

Community service encompasses voluntary actions undertaken to address societal needs and improve the well-being of individuals within a community. It involves individuals or groups dedicating their time, skills, and resources to support causes that benefit others without expecting anything in return. The principle of community service is rooted in the belief that we have a responsibility to contribute positively to the communities in which we live and work. Community service can take various forms, including volunteering at local charities, participating in environmental clean-up efforts, mentoring youth, providing assistance to vulnerable populations, and organizing fundraising events for charitable causes. By actively engaging in community service, individuals not only make a tangible difference in the lives of others but also foster a sense of belonging, empathy, and social responsibility.



Professional Excellence

Achieving professional excellence requires a combination of knowledge, skills, dedication, and a strong work ethic. It involves setting ambitious goals, seeking opportunities for growth and development, and consistently delivering outstanding results. Individuals who embody professional excellence demonstrate a passion for their work, a willingness to go above and beyond expectations, and a commitment to lifelong learning and self-improvement. Moreover, professional excellence involves cultivating positive relationships with colleagues, clients, and stakeholders, fostering a culture of collaboration, respect, and mutual support. It entails embracing innovation, adapting to change, and proactively seeking solutions to challenges and opportunities.



Active and Engaged Mentorship

Effective mentorship goes beyond simply imparting advice or information; it involves actively listening to mentees, understanding their goals and aspirations, and providing tailored support and encouragement to help them succeed. Mentors serve as role models, advocates, and sounding boards, offering valuable insights, perspective, and feedback to help mentees develop their skills, build confidence, and make informed decisions. Active and engaged mentorship is characterized by regular communication, goal setting, and ongoing support and encouragement. Mentors provide constructive feedback, challenge mentees to stretch their abilities, and create opportunities for them to gain new experiences and expand their networks. Mentees, in turn, demonstrate openness to learning, initiative, and a willingness to take ownership of their development.

Please visit our website to view eligibility requirements and submit nominations!

