



WEDA'S LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Western Dredging Association Takes Great Pleasure in
Presenting its 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award to:

William G. Gahagan, P.E.

In recognition for his life's work in and towards advancement of the dredging industry, and commitment to sound engineering and experience-based solutions, the Western Dredging Association is pleased to honor William G. Gahagan by awarding him WEDA's 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award.

Bill Gahagan has been a dedicated lifelong pioneer and leader of the dredging industry. As an engineering graduate, he worked at Gahagan Dredging which was founded by his grandfather and was responsible for dredging of the Apollo Launch Site and Newark, Kennedy, and Logan Airports. Gahagan Dredging was known for innovation in developing equipment and dredging techniques for difficult projects. After a sea change in the industry, Bill became a consultant to Great Lakes Dredge & Dock in 1972.

Bill met J. Franklin Bryant, a veteran of the dredging industry while he worked at Gahagan Dredging. Frank later started Bryant Engineering and was contacted by Bill in 1974 for a project at Jupiter Island, Florida, a project notable as the first use of a hydraulic cutterhead dredge working in the ocean to renourish a beach. The two formed Gahagan & Bryant Associates, Inc. (GBA), in 1975 and established a lifelong bond and shared belief that to properly design a dredging program, the designing engineers must have "hands-on" field experience in performance of dredging contract work. Under that philosophy, GBA has grown into the largest firm in the United States specializing in dredging and marine-related projects. Clients learned that GBA reports were concise, clear and well-focused, stating "this is the issue, this is the solution," and that the solutions worked. GBA employees are always encouraged to learn the industry and hone their capabilities in the field, collaborating with owner and contractor.

GBA's success was initially driven by Bill's ability to provide sound, practical solutions to complicated projects. Once GBA was anchored as an established firm, Bill was able to shift his focus to mentorship. His dedication to the growth and development of engineers is unparalleled as is his honorable and selfless contribution to the dredging industry. Within GBA and among the dredging industry, many executives, engineers, surveyors, and consultants have been positively influenced, encouraged, and mentored by Bill.

Bill Gahagan has a long history of encouragement and promotion of WEDA, encouraging GBA employees to participate as members and conference presenters. Because of his outstanding support to the dredging industry and to the Western Dredging Association, it is with great pleasure that I present him with WEDA's 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award.

Given under my hand this 27th day of June 2018,

Marcel Hermans
President/Chairman, Western Dredging Association