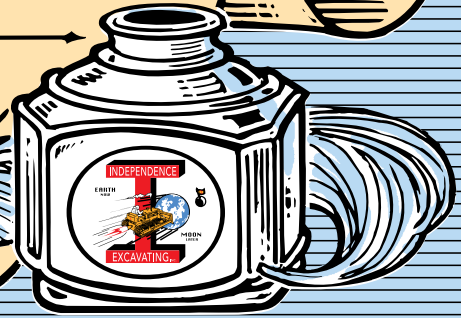


Established
1956

Declaration of Independence



Independence Excavating • Independence Demolition, Inc.
Independence Communications, Inc. • Indy Equipment
Flex-Tech Resources, Ltd. • DiGeronimo Aggregates

Independence Recycling of Florida • Precision ProCut
Independence Recycling • Precision Environmental Co.

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President's Message

Friend, Race Buddy- Partner Extraordinaire



Melvin H. Kurtz
1925-2008

Vic DiGeronimo Sr.

When Melvin Kurtz passed away on January 5th, the DiGeronimo family lost a friend of more than 50 years and one of the most prominent persons in our lives.

Mel is survived by his wife Delores of 59 years, and their children, John (Laura), Cindi DiGeronimo (Bobby), Gregory (Lyn), Mel (Kellie), Debbie Ziss (John), Tom (Carrie) and Lisa Luciano (Danny). In addition, his family includes 37 much-loved grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren. The DiGeronimo family goes back a long way with him and the entire Kurtz family. My brother Don, who passed away 37 years ago, was the first person to start a relationship with Melvin in 1955. Don needed a front end loader moved and made arrangements with him to move it. After a handshake with Don, Melvin also shook my hand, and I still remember how much it meant to me. I was fifteen years old at the time. From that handshake, their friendship grew and blossomed and sometimes (to my delight), they included me!

When Melvin found out my interest in race cars, our friendship grew quickly. Right around this time, I was 16 years old and met his beautiful wife, Delores as a result of driving one of their topsoil trucks occasionally after school or on Saturdays.

Continued on inside cover...



President's Message Continued

Delores took the orders on the phone, wrote the tickets, gave us directions for the delivery (no Mapquest in those days), and kept track of everything else. Remarkable!

Melvin had a way of always making you feel special. I remember in 1957 when they bought two brand new Ford single axle F-700's. Awesome! However, I was the "only one" who could handle one of the older trucks. I still remember to this day him telling me that the "older guys" couldn't handle my truck so they had to drive the new ones. I felt pretty good! Then he said, "Oh, by the way the starter motor doesn't work on this truck, so I know you can keep it running, but if you have to shut it off, make sure it is on a grade so you can roll it and jump start it." Wow, was I important or what? He even let his son Greg ride with me when he was only 3 years old! We excavated the lake at Elmwood Park together in 1963, working after hours from 5:00 pm until dark (I taught his son Tommy how to power shift the CAT loader on this job along with teaching him to tell time at 5 years old!)

I will always remember all the great times we had traveling together to Florida for the Daytona 500 with Delores, Les Baur (93 at the present time), Tony Appenzeller, Speedy Kosicki, Johnny, and Greg. We traveled to many cities for races including Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Trenton, New Jersey, DuQuoin, Illinois and many other cities throughout the country. My first Indianapolis 500 race was with Melvin, and Lurlie and

I continue to attend the qualifying weekend. In 1962, Lurlie and I also had our wedding day luncheon at the Country Squire Restaurant, of which Mel was part owner.

Melvin and our family had a lot of partnerships together. A race car, real estate, equipment purchases— all on a handshake, no signatures needed. He was always a man of honesty and integrity. We always greeted each other by saying, "Hi partner." For a few years, we shared a two-way radio frequency - "73" was his calling number. When "73" called, all else stopped until he got what he needed. He was a very hard worker and very intense. I can still remember some of the responses, "Sure Dad, whatever you need" or, "Cool your jets, Dad." Jan Foley of Ohio CAT was kind and thoughtful when he gave his family and some of Mel's closer friends a "73" memorial pin recently.



I learned a lot from Mel over the years; honesty, integrity, hard work ethic, your word was your bond. The most important thing I learned from him though was how to raise a beautiful family, which we both did, and I thank God for it everyday.

As most of you know, I always close my message with arrivederci, the Italian word for "until we meet again." I feel very privileged at this time to say, "Melvin, we love you and arrivederci!"

Melvin Kurtz's legacy is the wonderful family he leaves behind...

I have many, many memories of Melvin including the old days of Independence Kiwanis, of which he was a founding member. He was always in a hurry to leave early to go absolutely nowhere! Once in awhile we, along with our buddies Speedy and Les, would go look at trucks and a couple of times went to K-mart; I put an end to that!

Melvin, my brother Vic and I, along with the "crew" traveled to Daytona and Indianapolis many times. One story I will share was the time we were in Daytona...we only had a couple of drinks (I think). Speedy had a station wagon with a police siren and of course Melvin would egg him into racing the beach and through the streets with the siren whaling! We were stopped by a Daytona police officer. He said "Boys, we don't do things like this in Daytona Beach". My response was "Officer, we don't do things like this in Cleveland, Ohio either!" He let us go. Melvin loved it...I miss him.

Rich DiGeronimo

Melvin Kurtz Memorial

I am certain that had it not been for the close relationship between Mel Kurtz and my late brother Don, and the divine intervention of Jesus, I would not be married to his wonderful daughter, Cindi. Eight children, 15 grandchildren (going on 17) is surely due to their enduring friendship that has reunited them in heaven.

Bobby DiGeronimo



Current Project

Majestic Star Casino Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Ted Howard, Project Manager

On December 11, 2007 PITG Gaming broke ground on the newest casino project in Pennsylvania – The Majestic Star. Located on the Ohio River just West of Heinz Field and the Science Center in the center of Pittsburgh, the new casino covers 400,000 square feet and will incorporate a casino, parking garage, and riverfront walk. The casino will have 100,000 square foot gaming floor, five restaurants, as well as four bars and lounges.

Independence Excavating was awarded the site work package that included the demolition of existing buildings, pavements, underground utilities, and removal of various un-documented foundations. Once the demolition was completed we hauled off over 50,000 cy of dirt from the site, installed the storm sewers and pre-drilled over 1,800 caissons to clear them from potential obstructions.

Currently, we are beginning to bring the building interior to grade prior to the erection of the steel and pre-cast concrete structure. We are also working with Mosites Construction Company, excavating and backfilling pile caps for the new building's foundations.

The project has been fast-paced and is on an accelerated schedule. From ground breaking in December of 2007 to opening in May of 2009 is a little over 16 months and is very aggressive schedule for a building of this size and complexity.

One interesting unforeseen condition that received a lot of attention was the old H-pile that we uncovered at the north end of the site. The old H-pile was buried below grade and had been part of some old existing structure that had long since been removed. We were asked to remove them since they were in conflict with the new auger cast piles that needed to be installed. A crane and vibratory hammer were mobilized and we began to remove the sixty-foot-long H-pile from the ground. What started out as a few piles quickly turned into more than three hundred by the time they were all extracted. As we were extracting the piles a reporter took notice and became interested in what they had been used to support in the past. Since no structure was present when we uncovered them we had no idea what was there. Before we were even done removing



the piles, the Pittsburgh Tribune had run an article describing the location of an old iron gas tank that was in the same location as the piles. It seems that these piles may have been the remnants of the old tank which exploded in 1927 killing 26 people and leveling much of the north side. The article can be found by visiting our website at www.indexc.com and clicking on the Majestic Star Casino news story located on the homepage.

We are happy to report that to date the project is on schedule

despite the various unforeseen conditions such as weather, obstructions, unsuitable soils, etc. The project team of PITG Gaming, Keating Building Corp., Smoot Construction, Civil & Environmental Consultants, and Independence Excavating have been able to work around these obstacles and divert resources from other activities to keep costs down and stay on schedule. We were able to provide soil conditioning to help bring the on-site soils to suitable moisture content and prevent the costly expense of removing and replacing the unsuitable soils. This has allowed for the other foundation, electrical, and plumbing trades to keep

working rather than wait for the subgrade to be remediated. The erection of the building will begin mid-April and our work on site will continue for several more months. Independence Excavating is proud to be part of this project and we look forward to the opening in May of 2009!



Section of H-pile to be removed.



EAP Workshop: Harmony in the Home = Productivity at Work

Kate McPherson, Training Coordinator

Kathy Dawson conducted a lunch time relationship workshop in the IX Training room on February 21st. Thirteen participants enthusiastically took part in the hour-long workshop. Kathy Dawson is a relationship trainer who has a segment on Fox 8 news as well as a radio segment on Q104. She is an engaging and knowledgeable speaker who covered such topics as *Your Marriage/Relationship is like a Business*, *Communication is like Deep Sea Diving*, *Self-Awareness is Key*, and the *10 Worst Ways to Communicate*.

The hour went by quickly with tons of input from the group. When the class ended, there was an overwhelming consensus that Kathy must come back for Part 2 because the participants felt that one hour was too short to really dive into all of Kathy's topics. One attendee was quoted as saying "I felt the class was awesome! I could have listened to her all day!" Overall, the workshop was a success because those who attended learned new skills to make their relationships healthier.



Safety

DiGeronimo Companies 2nd Annual Safety Day

Ray Wiecek, EH&S Manager

The "Safety Team" along with the DiGeronimo family would like to thank all those who attended the 2nd Annual Safety Day breakfast held on February 23rd.

Mr. Gerry Faust, our guest speaker explained that a winning team takes the daily commitment of every individual toward a common goal.

Our Safety Program is like a sports team - to be successful we need to train hard, work together and overcome adversities in order to maintain our culture safety for all DiGeronimo Company employees.





DiGeronimo Companies Hosts Annual Managers Meeting with Guest Speaker - Lewis C. Merletti.

Sacrifice...Courage...Devotion to Duty...Commitment.

On Saturday, March 29th the DiGeronimo Companies hosted their annual Managers Meeting at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Independence. The goal of the meeting which was attended by over 140 managers and supervisors, was to review our companies' work of the past year.

Our guest speaker this year was Mr. Lewis C. Merletti, Senior Vice President of the Cleveland Browns. Mr. Merletti is also a 25-year veteran of the United States Secret Service. He delivered a message of leadership, ethics, and commitment. He discussed the principles that hold true regardless of sector or industry, how these principles define leadership, and how they hold the key to success for both organization and country.

Merletti said, "It will take hard efforts to make and keep the world a better place and there is no substitute in this effort for America's strength and sense of purpose. And that strength and sense of purpose lies within each of you.

These are the qualities of citizens in a great Nation, for great citizens are what make a Nation great."



Pictured from left to right: Rich DiGeronimo, Lewis Merletti, Bobby DiGeronimo and Vic DiGeronimo Sr.



New Projects

Cleveland State University – University Center Demolition

Location: Cleveland, Ohio
Start Date: March, 2008
Completion Date: September, 2008
Scope of work: Demolition of a 6-story reinforced concrete building. It has a full height steel and glass atrium, two overhead walkways, and one concrete bridge. Project includes asbestos abatement, salvage work, utility disconnects, foundation removal, sheeting, landscape and pavement removal, site fence, and a walkway canopy.

Clow Water Systems Closure

Location: Coshocton, Ohio
Start Date: April, 2008
Completion Date: October, 2008
Scope of work: Existing landfill closure and installation of storm sewer.

Coleman Pipe

Location: Apollo, PA
Start Date: March, 2008
Completion Date: April, 2008
Scope of work: Cut, prepare, load, transport, and market approximately 600 gross tons of steel piping.

Ravenna Arsenal Concrete Demolition

Location: Beachwood, Ohio
Start Date: March, 2008
Completion Date: April, 2008
Scope of work: Demolition and removal of 16,000 cubic yards of concrete slabs and underground footers/foundations.

University Hospital – AHUJA Medical Center

Location: Beachwood, Ohio
Start Date: March, 2008
Completion Date: April, 2008
Scope of work: Site Preparation including storm water controls, cut-to-fill for the construction trailer facility, access roads, and water and sanitary sewer taps equipment from the No. 6 Tin Mill Line.

Employee Spotlight

The DiGeronimo Companies welcome Kate McPherson!

We would like to introduce our new Training Coordinator, Kate McPherson. Kate comes to the DiGeronimo Companies from the House of Blues, Cleveland, where she was the Training Coordinator for two years. She managed a training program that encompassed the learning and development of 200-plus employees, 46 trainers, and seven departments. We are pleased to welcome Kate and are confident she will bring success to the team!

For more information about training, please contact Kate McPherson at 216.446.3454 or Lisa D. at 216.446.3520.





Independence gets DIRTY!

Special thanks to Independence operator Tom Janosik and mechanic Mark Cerny for taking time to participate in the Garfield Hts. Library's "Dirty Job" program. Held on Saturday, February 16th, this was a spin off of the popular TV show seen on the Discovery Channel. Over 20 attendees listened to funeral directors, zoo keepers, sewer cleaners, mechanics and equipment operators about their "dirty jobs". This program demonstrated to children and parents that even "dirty jobs" can be fun!



Crushing Projects

Boyas Excavating

Valley View, Ohio
75,000 tons of concrete crushing

DiGeronimo Aggregates, LLC

Independence, Ohio
300,000 tons of 2" minus shale crushing

E.V. Williams

Virginia Beach, Virginia
40,000 tons of concrete crushing into subbase material.

I-75 / Archer-Western

Macon, Georgia
91,000 tons of 2" minus concrete crushing

Independence Facility

Independence, Ohio
100,000 tons of ODOT #304 base material

Jacksonville Facility

Jacksonville, Florida
50,000 tons of 2" minus base material

Lafarge – North America

Mantua, Ohio
50,000 tons of sand and gravel crushed into ODOT #304

Lafarge – North America

Petersburg, Ohio
60,000 tons of limestone crushing into ODOT #304

Lafarge – North America

Cave in Rock, Illinois
400,000 tons of limestone crushing into various stones

Lakeland Facility

Lakeland, Florida
50,000 tons of 2" minus base material

Mountaineer Quarry

Newell, West Virginia
150,000 tons of sand and gravel crushing

Orlando Facility

Orlando, Florida
200,000 tons of stone and base material

Owens Corning / Cultured Stone

Chester, South Carolina
Crushing of specialty lightweight concrete

Punta Gorda Facility

Punta Gorda, Florida
50,000 tons of 2" minus base material

Stein/I.S.G. Slag Crushing

ISG Mill, Cleveland, Ohio
600,000 tons of slag crushed into #57, #8, and #10 stone

Tampa Facility

Tampa, Florida
50,000 tons of 2" minus base material

M.K. Taylor Construction

Hampton, Virginia
75,000 tons of 3" x 1½" concrete and 1½" minus concrete subbase

Valley View Facility

Valley View, Ohio
150,000 tons of #1's and #2's and #304 base material



Precision Environmental Celebrates 20 Years

Tony DiGeronimo, President

February 17, 1988 is the day the asbestos abatement service of Precision Environmental began to serve the northern Ohio construction industry. As an offshoot of the services of Independence Excavating to industrial clients, Precision strives to offer environmental solutions with employees that have a background and familiarity with the mainstream construction industry.

Twenty years later, we are very proud of all that we have accomplished and the people we have come to know. The clients, consultants, owners, vendors, and our employees have bonded to solve many challenges. Asbestos has posed a huge problem to many owners and contractors intending to renovate. But, more importantly, when asbestos was deemed to be a health risk to workers, students, and building occupants, safe methods of handling and disposing of the material needed to be devised.

As members of the scientific and regulation communities came together to devise the regulations, good contractors did what good contractors have traditionally accomplished in the industry.

Precision's solution was consistent with the DiGeronimo family philosophy and core values practiced at Independence Excavating since the 1950's...find the best people, give them the needed tools, and look for innovative, cost-effective ways to solve client problems with the highest degree of integrity.

Now that 20 years of history has confirmed our belief that there was a need for our service, we continue to look for innovative,

cost-effective ways to serve our clients, as well as offering additional services that compliment the skills

of our employees.

That is why over the years selective demolition has become a big part of our client services, and how we have been able to add concrete saw cutting, drilling, as well as floor restoration to the list.

Over the past five years, we have become affiliated with electrical union Local 38 to increase employee knowledge of client electrical needs. Since our work depends on understanding electrical services to buildings and equipment in order to work in a safe, efficient manner, we can now offer environmentally-trained electricians for all types of specialized electrical services.

We thank all those clients, consultants, associates, vendors, and employees that help us to fulfill our mission. We especially thank our management team and employees for their consistent performance and dedication.



The following dedicated employees have been working at Precision for 15 or more years:

Name	Years of service	Name	Years of service
Zuchowski, Thomas	32	Gould, Darrik	17
Haber, Ken	24	Pich, Nick	16
Savage, John	20	Wilkosz, Edward	16
Wolf, Emory	19	Roberson, John	16
Pich, Arnold	18	Salajcik, Robert	16
Sheppard, Donald	18	Roetzel, John	16
Fox, Cathy	18	Ardo, Timothy	15
Zuchowski, Michael	18	Surman, Mark	15
Brzezczkowski, Rick	17	Queer, Dave	15
Hendricks, Alan	17	Farson, Todd L.	15
Morales, Luis	17	Csincsar, James M.	15
Pappas, George	17	Greer, Michael	15
Kyer, James	17		



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Comments and suggestions can be submitted by letter to:

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