

Steel Tank Institute
Steel Plate Fabricators Association
570 Oakwood Road
Lake Zurich, IL 60047
847/438-8265 Fax: 847/438-8766

NEWS

CELEBRATING STI/SPFA'S CENTURY CLUB

June 19, 2007. LAKE ZURICH, IL — “Old but serving proudly” says Ed White, describing his town’s steel water tank built in 1905 in Aberdeen, Mississippi, and still in use today. The Aberdeen tank is recognized in the STI/SPFA Century Club, along with more than 20 other tanks across the United States still in active service. “Water tanks are some of the most identifiable structures across the United States, and we feel it is important to honor these tanks not only for their extraordinary service life, but also for the role they play in ensuring the safety of our water supplies,” said Kevin Gallagher, Chairman of the Field Erected Tank Section of STI/SPFA.

“It's been a great tank,” says Jim Russell of the steel water tank built in 1892 and in continuous use since then. He reports that the tank was repainted inside and outside in the summer of 2006, and he would never want to use anything other than a steel tank. “This tank has withstood the test of time,” says Jim, “cathodic protection was added in 1946 and is still used today.” The tank even withstood a direct hit from a tornado in 1946. “This tank served as the primary tank until 1960 when Danville built a 1 MG Tank.” Comparing the newest tank to the oldest, Russell says he “only hopes the new tank lasts as long and works as well as the old one.”

“Steel has been a viable construction material for our water storage tanks throughout our history,” says William Mowell of Ridgewood, New Jersey. “It has provided both flexibility and longevity.” Jeff Castro of Ypsilanti, Michigan, said his historic tank “remains in great condition today.”

“The Eiffel Tower in France and Havana historical water tower are both a century old and still in use today,” says Jay Favor of Havana, Illinois. The Havana tank, in use since 1889, earned the American Water Works Association Landmark Award in 1982.

“Despite some of the marketing propaganda for other materials, there is no such thing as a ‘maintenance free’ water storage tank - regardless of the construction materials,” says Richard Horn, P.E., Manager of Sales for CB&I. “With periodic inspection and some maintenance, welded steel water storage tanks can and have operated for well over 100 years under normal operating conditions.”

We congratulate our Century Club Award Winners! Visit the STI/SPFA web site for a brochure including photos of all the Century Club Award winners, at <http://www.steeltank.com/Awards/CenturyClub/tabid/91/Default.aspx> .

The Steel Tank Institute and Steel Plate Fabricators Association are Divisions of STI/SPFA, an association serving companies fabricating steel tanks, piping and pressure vessels for use in the petroleum, food, water and chemical processing industries. STI/SPFA provides training and certification, quality assurance inspections, develops industry standards, produces safety booklets, and serves as a liaison to regulatory and code authorities. For further information, contact Anne Kiefer at STI/SPFA, 570 Oakwood Road, Lake Zurich, IL 60047, Phone: 847/438-8265 Fax: 847/438-8766 E-mail: ankiefer@steeltank.com Web: www.steeltank.com and www.spfa.org. # # #