



In Memory of Thomas E. Davis – Polyurea Pioneer

By Dudley J. Primeaux, II, Primeaux Associates, LLC

February 2008 - A little over 20 years ago, Tom Davis was an engineer with Dunnage Engineering in Brighton, Michigan. Tom had heard of this new polyurea spray technology and thought that he could use to replace the slush molded PVC they used for dunnage protection in automotive applications.

In a very short time, Tom was able to get this work into the facility, but saw the opportunity he could have with his own work. After several discussions back and forth as well as heart-to-heart communications with his wife and friend, Marcia Davis, they took their savings, left current employment and formed Visuron Technologies. "He was so excited, and you could see the passion in his eyes and heart, I am honored to have been there with him at the start," claims good friend and associate Dudley J. Primeaux, II.

Now Tom was a very smart engineer having spent much time working in automotive application areas. He was actually lead engineer and inventor in some very important inorganic ceramic coatings work still being used today.

Many of us knew Tom as a Founding Father and past Board of Director of the PDA, committee member, exhibitor and presenter. Tom was even on front stage for several of the first PDA meetings trying to discuss that nasty thing of failures. He even shared with us a failure that cost him financially. But we have learned from our lessons and moved on to improve polyurea technology, equipment and application.

Tom and his company, Visuron Technologies, was noted for its aromatic and aliphatic spray polyurea systems, the high chemical resistant coating / lining materials, the single component MIAC™ polyurea, the foul release systems, potable water approved systems, the robotic pipelining equipment and structural materials and the newly demonstrated commercial electrostatic spray applied polyurea.

What many suppliers and applicators don't realize is that Tom and his work set the stage for most of the materials and work performed by most of us today. Some of his first work dealt with asbestos / lead encapsulation and remediation work where he had strippable systems. He was the first to design and apply in-mold polyurea coating systems for soft-feel spa and hot-tub work. Many of his polyurea / geotextile secondary containment systems have been in use now for 15+ years. He solved bughole issues in concrete coating work using the adhered geotextile membrane system for both major secondary containment and aquarium lining projects. There was also EPS encapsulation projects for automotive end use, clear applied polyurea for decorative waterproofing, blast mitigation / structural support, roofing, underwater sealants and the first silicone backbone polyurea systems. Tom was a pioneer. Tom was a visionary.

Tom was a husband, married to his friend and partner Marcia for 20 years. Tom was a brother, with two older siblings, one living in California and one living in Michigan. He was a Father and Dad, having two sons and two daughters. He was a Grandfather (5) and a Great-Grandfather (2). He was a rescuer of his faithful companions Ginger and Val, who were by he and Marcia's sides at all times.

Tom was an honest, humble gentleman, simple at heart being a community volunteer, believer in the USA and supporter of our military and veterans. He would listen intently to conversations, share experiences and have a laugh or two. But most importantly, Tom was a Christian, and our friend.

Every time Tom and his good friends spoke, whether it be at conventions / shows, job sites or on the telephone, he always found the time to discuss life, family and friends. It was talk much like childhood friends would do while sitting on the banks a soft flowing river on a warm spring day or in a freshly erected tree house. Tom had recently taken up flying model airplanes for relaxation. Even though he crashed and temporarily lost his first plane on an earlier run, he got another one and continued forward.

We all have many fond memories and stories of Tom that will be with us forever. I am sure that many of you have the same.

Our industry has lost an innovator, a pioneer, a leader, a volunteer, a team member and associate. To those of us here at PDA, we have lost a great friend.

This article is memory of Tom Davis. It was excerpted from a memorial speech given by Dudley J. Primeaux, II at the 2008 PDA Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, USA. Tom Davis and Dudley were very close friends. He will always be remembered.

Article from www.polyurea.com.