

Good evening ladies and gentlemen, It's a pleasure to come before you tonight and present to you the next recipient of the Smitty Award but before I do I first want to tell a little brief history of what I know about the man and the events that led up to the creation of this prestigious award.

It all started with a man Charles Smith who started Locksmithing in 1967 after recovering from a truck accident from his previous career.

Charles joined ALOA in 1974. I can only imagine that because of Charles' involvement with ALOA he got the idea to start a regional gathering of locksmiths in the Central Pennsylvania Area.

In fact Bob Channel of Channel's locksmith in Hanover, PA recalls meeting in the early years at Charles Smith's lock shop along with Fred Zeplin and others devising a plan of action to bring this about.

Well after several gatherings it became a reality in 1975 and the Central Pennsylvania Locksmith Association was formed.

In the formative years of CPLA, Charles Smith did everything in his powers to help his fellow members of CPLA out.

I personally can remember making a pilgrimage from Lancaster to Dallastown for the first time receiving some assistance from Charles Smith.

Let me tell you I did not relish this experience at first because after meeting Charles Smith at the CPLA meetings, I learned quickly his level of passion for how a locksmith should conduct him or herself. When you are young you come to fully appreciate these qualities later in life after your own experiences make you all the wiser.

Charles Smith was not a politically correct individual he always stood his ground never compromising integrity of this trade. When Charles Smith spoke he was straight and to the point you either got it or you got out there was no middle road.

To make a long story short Charles Smith personally helped me out by supplying me with 100 Schlage E original key blanks but of course I did receive a lecture that this is the first and only time he was ever going to bail me out. He taught me to plan ahead and to stand on my own feet.

He stated he was not a locksmith supplier and by the way I had to pay cash for this transaction it was the only way he did business. At that time I thought wow he is tough but I came to appreciate that Charles Smith was also teaching me a standard of sound business practices to help me mitigate my losses in dealing with commerce.

Up until his passing in 1989 Charles Smith did not waver in his passion for professional locksmithing and to memorialize his vision the CPLA board, in the early 90's, created the Smitty Award in his honor.

I remember being on that committee and the discussions of what name to call this prestigious award. We agreed that Charles Smith was always short and to the point but his style might have been harsh to the weak but it definitely strengthened us and his grit made good things happen so Charles Smith aka "Smitty" to his friends is how the Award got its name.

I have noticed that past recipients and the newest recipient to be announced in the next few moments have some common ground. They all had other careers before entering into locksmithing, each became respective business owners in locksmithing, residents of Pennsylvania, served as President in their respective locksmith associations, Achieved the Certified Master Locksmith Designation and they all had two eyes one was yellow and the other red (Pause) Ok just kidding on the last statement about the eyecolor . . . Just seeing how many are still awake! great meal

The Smitty award has only been awarded four times since its inception starting with Henry Prince, Myron Bird, George Sharpley and myself Bill Neff.

Our newest honoree began his career in locksmithing in 1982, he is happily married to a devoted woman who has worked by his side in business, he is deeply rooted in God and operates by Christian principles, he even fearlessly ventured into running more than one successful brick and mortar establishment at a time.

This individual achieved becoming a private pilot and then went on to become a Certified Flight Instructor educating future pilots how to fly safe. Not only has this individual been Past President of CPLA but also served as Chairman of the Keystone Chapter of ALOA for several years. He has also motivated and provided inspiration to countless souls in the role of Sunday School Teacher.

Our fellow comrade purchased a business which was established in 1902 and transformed that lock company to 21st century standards by adding electronics in Card Access, Camera and Automotive Transponders to name a few.

I have known this admirable man for years and I can earnestly state that like Charles Smith, he does not waiver but has kept the course in fact without his consistent leadership as President of CPLA for about a decade CPLA might not have stood the test of time.

Our honoree here with us tonight has truly lived up to the very existence of his own company name "Standard Lock & Key" for he is virtually a "**Keeper of Standards**" and it is with great honor and pleasure to present this honorable SMITTY Award to my friend and colleague
Kenneth Steiner, Jr., CML

Would our President Daryl be so kind to read off what the plaque states and present this award to Ken

Thank you.