

Over 111 Years of Excellent Service



Gilbert G. Ray
1904 – 1929



George I. Ray
1920 – 1946



Rudy Barnes
1946 – 1970



Mike Wilkinson
1968 – Present



Wes Wilkinson
1991 - Present

In the late nineteenth century a skilled inventor and sheet metal mechanic, Gilbert G. Ray, came to Charlotte and in 1904 founded a business which still bears his name. The company quickly outgrew its original location on 5th Street in downtown Charlotte expanding to a second location on Lucena Street in north Charlotte. He led the company for over two decades until his son, George Irving, took over leadership as President in 1929.

George I. Ray skillfully operated the company from 1929 through 1946 and established a national reputation for the company and himself in the roofing and sheet metal industry. During his leadership he served as President of the National Association of Sheet Metal Contractors (today's SMACNA) for the years 1930 and 1931. He was responsible for the publication of the manual, Standard Practice in Sheet Metal Work, for which he prepared the first section himself. He expanded the business into several geographic regions and other skilled trades including plumbing, mechanical, heating, air processing and chemical additives. He sought cooperation with his industry peers throughout the country to establish engineering and standard practices for the benefit of all throughout the United States.

Rudolph John "Rudy" Barnes first became associated with the company in 1929 while a student at North Carolina State University and later became a full-time employee after service as a Naval Officer in World War II. Mr. Barnes became President and owner in 1946 and proceeded to incorporate the company that same year. He served as President of the Carolinas Roofing and Sheet Metal Contractors Association in 1955 and as President of the National Roofing Contractors Association in 1961.

Michael W. Wilkinson joined the company after earning his degree from North Carolina State University and service as an Army Officer during the Vietnam War period. Mr. Wilkinson became President in 1970. His focus has always been to continue the company's dedication in providing the best service and satisfaction to our commercial, industrial and institutional clients in the Carolinas. Today he continues in his position of Chairman and like Mr. Barnes he has also served as President of the Carolinas Roofing and Sheet Metal Contractors Association and as a director of the National Roofing Contractors Association.

Wes Wilkinson joined the company upon graduation from North Carolina State University in 1991 and assumed the position of President in 2006. As a 5th generation officer and owner Wes continues our commitment to the highest quality roofing and exterior building construction services.

All five generations of family leadership have been active and proudly served as officers in the Sheet Metal and Air Conditioner Contractors Association (SMACNA), National Roofing Contractors Association and the Carolinas Roofing and Sheet Metal Contractors Association, providing Presidents to all three organizations. We are the Carolinas oldest roofing and sheet metal contractor and are grateful to all of our clients who have supported our company to allow us to continue this proud tradition today.