



↑ (Pictured from left) Albert, Rose, Carol, and Ken Balkenbusch at the 2004 Missouri LICA Summer Meeting in Hannibal, MO

The Missouri Land Improvement Contractors Association is proud to name Ken Balkenbusch an Honorary Member in recognition of his never-ending contributions to our membership, our future and to the protection our most precious asset - Missouri's soil.



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February 19, 2023

Ken Balkenbusch

The relationship between the Balkenbusch family and LICA goes back a long, long way. In fact, Albert Balkenbusch, Ken's father, was one of the founding fathers of the Ozark Terracing Contractors Association before it merged with the Land Improvement Contractors Association in 1972.

Only five years after that merger, Ken Balkenbusch joined LICA and we have been reaping the benefits ever since. Ken has served as his District's Treasurer, Secretary, Vice President, President, and Board of Directors Representative multiple times, for many years. In addition, he has shared his talents with the chapter's Field Day, Legislative, Membership, and Convention/Education committees, serving as Co-Chair of the Convention/Education Committee for more than a decade.

Ken has not only served LICA for 46 years; he served our country for 38 years between the Army Reserve and National Guard. Recognizing Ken's enormous talent, the membership asked Ken to serve as the chapter's President, but he had to decline the offer due to his deployment to the Gulf War.

Over the past four - almost five - decades, Ken has shared his skills with LICA in a number of ways. For example, he organized the 2007 Missouri LICA Summer Meeting around in-field streambank stabilization techniques with the Department of Conservation; helped guide Missouri LICA's efforts to stop the Corps of Engineers from building a dam in the private enterprise arena; served as a judge at several equipment rodeos



↑ *It was a rare Board meeting if you didn't see Ken in attendance. (Pictured from left) Buddy Hostetter (back to camera), Larry LaFollette, Mont Gilbert, Bob Parks, and Ken at the 2014 Fall Board meeting*

during the Damage Prevention and Excavation Safety Summits; testified before both Missouri House and Senate committees on legislation relating to our members; and offered years of guidance on training opportunities at both the District and State level.

Ken's contribution to the Convention/Education Committee echoes his personal belief in education. In 1980, Ken teamed up with Joe Muenks and approached Linn Technical College to establish a Heavy Equipment Operators school. They started the school in a quonset hut with a dirt floor and Ken began his teaching career. Over the years, much has changed. Linn Technical College is now the State Technical College of Missouri (STCM); the Heavy Equipment Operators school now has its own building and field lab; and Ken has retired, after teaching for 28 years. However, a few things haven't changed. Ken still serves on the STCM Advisory Council for the Heavy Equipment Operators School, providing guidance on curriculum and industry-required skills, keeping the program relevant and fostering a future generation of skilled operators.

In addition to working for the military ... and LICA ... and Balkenbusch Excavating LLC ... and the State Technical College of Missouri ... and raising a family (Carol and Ken have four children: Kim, Jeff, Matt, and Anne, as well as eight grandkids) ... Ken also raises cattle. We still can't figure out how he has found the time! Although Ken has retired from teaching and the Guard, he continues to be a member of his local Farm Bureau Board; is a Grand Knight in the Linn, MO Knights of Columbus; and is a member of the VFW.



↑ *It may only be a lawnmower, but Ken is still teaching!*

If anyone exemplifies a LICA contractor, it is Ken Balkenbusch. In recognition of Ken's invaluable contributions, the Missouri LICA Board of Directors has named Ken Balkenbusch as an Honorary member on February 19, 2023.