

# Merrill Receives Three Special Recognition Awards



On Wednesday morning, November 17, 2004, while attending a Federal Reserve meeting at the **Federal Reserve Bank** in Kansas City, Missouri, Peter Merrill received a special "Appreciation Award" from the Federal Reserve Bank

acknowledging his service to the Federal Reserve System as he completed his three year appointment to the "Community Development Advisory Council" of the Federal Reserve. Merrill represented the housing industry on that national Federal Reserve advisory council. The award should have been presented at the awards luncheon that day; however, Merrill couldn't attend the lunch as he needed to leave to catch a plane back to Santa Fe for a Santa Fe Area Home Builders Association dinner.

At the **Santa Fe Area Home Builders Association** (SFAHBA) annual awards and installation dinner, on the same evening, November 17, 2004, Peter Merrill was presented with the first ever "President's Lifetime Achievement Award" by the SFAHBA. President Bob Lockwood presented the award and said that the award was created specifically to honor Merrill for his many contributions to the SFAHBA. In his presentation, he said "I don't know how this association could get along without the guidance and assistance we get from Peter." Free lifetime dues accompanied the award to go along with his free lifetime dues from the NMHBA having served as its president in 2000.

After receiving his award, Merrill was also presented with a special sport jacket, a plaque and a pin recognizing his "500 Spike" achievement. He is the first builder/remodeler to receive the 500 spike level in the State of New Mexico.

At the annual **National Kitchen & Bath Association** (NKBA) Business Luncheon April 2, 2004, Merrill was bestowed with the first-ever Honorary Lifetime Membership in appreciation of his continued dedication

to NKBA. The NKBA also created this award just to recognize the dedication, membership recruitment efforts, and continued involvement that Merrill has provided to the NKBA over the past years.

Merrill, a Certified Kitchen Designer, was recognized for his outstanding efforts in recruiting 27 new members for NKBA within a six-month period in 2003. Over the past 20 years, Merrill has displayed extraordinary efforts in recruiting 141 new members, including 23 already in 2004. He also has been instrumental in establishing the New Mexico Chapter of NKBA, and is active in a range of NKBA national activities. He also is a past president of the New York Tri-State Chapter of NKBA.

"When I got the call, I was floored," said Merrill. "I am extremely honored, and I hope to continue to do what I can for NKBA. When I sign up people for membership, I do it for their benefit ... I explain the benefits of being a member, and that is how I sell memberships. I never mention that it's good for the Association. That's just an added bonus."

Merrill was also one of 12 NKBA members inducted into the Ambassador's Club, established in 1983 to recognize the exceptional efforts put forth by individual members of NKBA for their recruiting efforts. Membership in the Club is reserved for individuals who recruit at least five new members in a 12-month period or a total of 15 new members over any time period.

Merrill is a past president of the Santa Fe Area Home Builders Association, and of New Mexico Home Builders Association. He also has a long history of membership recruitment for National Association of Home Builders, where he received the Super Grand Spike Award in 2003.

Merrill recently retired from his construction business and has decided to continue to support the construction industry by providing mediation and arbitration services to contractors through his new firm, Construction Dispute Resolution Services, LLC. He remains a member of the NMHBA Executive Committee, and is the NMHB-NAHB Build-Pac Trustee. He also remains a NAHB National Director representing the SFAHBA. He also continues to serve on many NAHB committees including the Construction Codes and Standards Committee and the Residential Construction Performance Guidelines Committee.

