

WALKER DIVING UNDERWATER CONSTRUCTION CELEBRATES 60 YEARS IN BUSINESS

BY: ANTHONY ATTANASIO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2017 marks Walker Diving's 60th year in business. Originally founded in 1957 by Glenn Walker, the first iteration of the company, known as Glenn Walker Inc., provided diving services until it was purchased by Harry Streit in 1973. Streit renamed the company Walker Diving Contractors, Inc. and ran the company for the next 31 years, while also operating other companies in the marine industry. Upon retirement, Streit sold Walker Diving to Alex Kalafatides, who renamed the company Walker Diving Underwater Construction Corp. In 2009, Kalafatides decided to become involved in other opportunities, and sold the company to a young veteran named David Earp who was looking to put his military experience to work in the private sector. Earp would rename the company Walker Diving Underwater Construction LLC and is taking a company with a proud tradition in underwater construction and commercial diving to new heights (or depths).

David Earp grew up in South Jersey before being accepted to the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. After earning a B.S. in Ocean Engineering, he went on to proudly serve his country in the U.S. Navy from 1997-2007 as first a Navy Diver and then a Navy SEAL. After leaving military service, he attended the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth earning an MBA in 2009. Following graduation, he immediately dove head first into the marine construction and diving industry with the acquisition of Walker Diving.

"At Walker Diving. . .
we bring a wealth of
knowledge to our projects
& strive for successful
projects that bring our
customers coming back"
- David Earp

Walker Diving provides a myriad of underwater services including inspections, surveys, repairs, maintenance, construction, and salvage. Additionally, Walker Diving performs some specialty marine work above the water's surface to meet their customer's needs. Walker



Diving is a union contractor, and regularly performs work for both union and non-union general contractors. Work is performed on all types of structures including bridges, piers, wharfs, dams, intake and outfall structures, treatment plants, pipelines, and others. The company has performed major and minor projects for a variety of clients including UTCA members such as IEW Construction, J. Fletcher Creamer & Son, J.H. Reid, Montana Construction, Northeast Remsco, and Skanska Koch, in addition to a growing list of private customers that include well-known companies such as DuPont and American Water.

Walker Diving's volume of work has grown considerably since Earp acquired the company in 2009. Recognizing the unmet need in the market for a diving contractor willing to price and complete a complex scope of diving work, Earp has worked to develop the company to meet that need. Many contractors were self-performing diving work or subcontracting diving on a time-and-material basis, when what they really needed was a subcontractor to assume responsibility for the underwater scope of work. Expanding the management, equipment and financial resources to meet this need and perform on a fixed price basis on multiple large projects at once has led to a large volume of additional work. Additionally, Earp recognized that many contractors who self-perform diving do not want to add additional diving capability when they experience a temporary increase in diving work. Walker Diving has been able to convince several general contractors that self-perform diving to try subcontracting to Walker Diving when they are busy or have a unique project. This has led to a significant volume of repeat business from several contractors. Earp says, "At Walker Diving, diving and underwater construction is what we do every day. We bring

that wealth of knowledge to our projects and strive for successful projects that bring our customers back next time.”

David is proud of the quality work Walker Diving provides its customers and is looking forward to growing in the areas within the marine construction industry, in which he feels his company truly stands out. He is very careful to point out that he is not looking to expand outside of their area of expertise, but rather



to continue to do what Walker has always done well: capitalize on their experience in the field to grow within their niche. Diving and marine construction are indeed specialty work, and as such, David has sought to assemble a team of experts that truly stand out in the industry. David attributes most of Walker Diving’s success to their experienced management and highly skilled labor. His company’s management team has more than 100 years of diving and marine construction experience to offer their customers, which in turn leads to safer and more efficient projects.

While steady improvement of the company is a major goal for David, safety remains a constant priority. From his time serving our country to his current position running Walker Diving, David has always felt his most important job is to keep the men and women he works with safe. He has done a noteworthy job with safety and Walker Diving was recently recognized by the UTCA as a 2017 Safety Award Winner.

Walker Diving has a very bright future ahead of it with a strong leader like David Earp at the helm. UTCA would like to congratulate David and everyone at the company for its 60 successful years in business.

Congratulations

South State Inc. – Celebrating 45 years
in Construction

and

Walker Diving – Celebrating 60 years
in Business

From your friends at



www.brencoequipment.com

BrenCo Equipment Supply & Technology

749 Clawson Ave. • Hillsborough, NJ 08844

Office: 908-369-3340 • Cell: 908-377-6331 • Fax: 908-369-3441