

**THE GENERAL SOCIETY OF MECHANICS AND TRADESMEN
OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
FOUNDED 1785**



Top (Left) Executive Director, **Victoria A. Dengel**, & Craftsmanship Award Recipient, **John Hazen White, Jr.**
Top (Right) President, **Dan Holohan** & **John Hazen White, Jr.**
Bottom (Left) Manhattan Borough President, **Gale A. Brewer**, **Victoria A. Dengel** & **John Hazen White, Jr.**
Bottom (Right) **John Hazen White, Jr.**

Dear Friends,

On Thursday, November 14th, we gathered in the historic General Society Library to honor and celebrate the contributions of our 2019 Craftsmanship Award Recipient, John Hazen White, Jr., Executive Chairman & CEO of [Taco Group Holdings, Inc.](#) for his multi-faceted contributions to our industry.

John "Johnny" Hazen White, Jr. owns and operates, Taco, a multi-million dollar conglomerate that is a leader in the industry. This family-owned company is a world class manufacturer of heating and cooling equipment with locations in the United States and globally.

Under Mr. White's exemplary leadership, and those of generations before him, Taco has become known for excellence, innovation, product diversity and commitment to training, education and sustainability and supporting staff and the community.

In his inspiring acceptance speech, Johnny White said: "Of all of the things in my life I've been involved with - organizations, historical things, my company, my family - there are some that stand out. This place is one of those. It has become very special to me. There's heritage, there's history here. And that history is about creating good for people. The notion of uplifting people and providing opportunity is wonderful. I never went to business school, but my experience in running a company has taught me that it is about developing people. I view my company as a little community that extends into bigger communities, whether those are customers, or suppliers, or cities and towns. To be able to reach out and be a part of people's lives is more valuable than anything else we can do."

"Next year, our company will be 100 years old. I think the greatest thing we can do in this world is to help uplift people. The greatest blessing we've been given is to share time with each other. I've learned that everyone has a story, and that if we take the time to listen, we'll find that those stories are often more interesting than our own. I am so grateful that you are sharing this moment with me, and I am so grateful to the people who work so hard to make this place what it is. You have my never-ending gratitude."

Since 1785, The General Society of Mechanics & Tradesmen (GSMT) has been improving the lives of New Yorkers, through its Mechanics Institute and its wide range of educational, historical, and cultural programs. We established our tuition-free Mechanics Institute in 1858 to provide evening instruction to the building- and construction trades, so as to materially improve our students' position in life, and to make our City stronger.

Without our tuition-free programs, many of our students would be unable to get the education they need to advance. Each fall, some 300 working women and men enroll in the Mechanics Institute's programs, which include: Electrical Technology, HVAC&R Systems, Plumbing Systems, Construction Project Management and AutoCAD and BIM.

Since 1858, we have financed this effort in its entirety, and we are fully committed to its continued operation and success. In joining with us to honor John Hazen White, Jr., you aided us in our mission to elevate our students so that they may better provide for themselves, their families, and actively contribute to our City. You've touched the past, the present, and certainly, the future.

With warm regards,



[Click here to view the Commemorative Journal](#)

[Click here to view images of the 2019 Craftsmanship Awards Gala](#)

The General Society of Mechanics & Tradesmen would like to thank our donors for their generosity. We are so very grateful for their support.

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