



# *News Release*

**ORANGE COUNTY/INLAND  
EMPIRE DISTRICT OFFICE**

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## **Peabody Engineering & Supply, Inc. to Receive Honors as Region IX Family Owned Business of the Year**

*Perseverance and retooling preserve father's legacy*

**SANTA ANA, Calif.** – The U.S. Small Business Administration, Orange County / Inland Empire District Office (OCIEDO) will recognize Mark and Larry Peabody of Peabody Engineering & Supply, Inc. as the Region IX Family Owned Business of the Year at its annual awards program on May 11, 2018. In addition to competing against nominees from across the Orange County / Inland Empire District, which covers the Southern California counties of Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino, the company also secured the Region IX Family Owned Business of the Year honors, representing the states of California, Arizona, Nevada, Hawaii and the territory of Guam in the National Small Business Week competition.

The company was started in 1962 by WWII Veteran and family patriarch Richard Peabody by manufacturing and distributing equipment for the agricultural industry to improve crop yields. While prospering and growing over the years, his two sons Mark and Larry would work at the company during their summers by building valves, pumps, tanks and trailers which delivered the equipment to the farm fields. This early exposure allowed the sons to learn much of what was to know about the business their father built.

In 1975 Larry joined the company where he took over responsibility for outside sales. Mark joined the business in 1978 where he worked full time and attended night school to complete his Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration/ Finance. Their father Richard decided he would retire from the company at which time the sons Mark and Larry purchased the company.

Challenges ensued when a federal legislative policy greatly impacted the farming community and their business. Mark and Larry vowed to preserve their father's legacy with a strategy to reinvent the company. They sold the line of agricultural equipment and focused on the distribution of plastic pipe, valves, fittings and tanks and thereby setting the company on a new and profitable course. After emerging from another difficult time in the 1990's they decided to retool for a new concept in dual-walled plastic chemical storage tanks. This strategy paid off as they went on to expand to 50 different products which are distributed across the United States, Canada, Mexico and Australia turning the company into a booming business.

With the assistance of multiple SBA loans the Peabody brothers expanded and branched into additional product lines and distribution areas. They further diversified the business by adding another division, Peabody Concealment where they manufacture fiberglass composite modular telecommunications cell site facades. These facades match the architecture of unique buildings and hide the cellular antennas from public view and preserve the beauty of each building they are installed on.

Their father Richard set a good example by passionately serving the community as a Reserve Los Angeles County Sheriff deputy. Mark and Larry also have a heart for their community serving on various non-profit boards where Mark has served as Chairman of the Corona Chamber of Commerce, Circle City Rotary and is currently on the Governing Board of Corona Regional Medical Center. The company has also been recognized for many awards including Top Workplace for the Inland Empire, the IECE Spirit of the Entrepreneur Family Business, the City of Corona's Manufacturer of the Year among others.

Through decades of hard work, sacrifice and business smarts, Mark and Larry Peabody rode the perilous ups and downs of their business and turned it into an ongoing and profitable enterprise with two distinct divisions and industries. Located in Corona, CA the business takes up a 32,000 sq. ft. manufacturing facility with 43 employees and to their credit many have been with the company for more than 20 years. Mark's wife of 20 years, Cheryl, runs the HR department caring for the employees and clients. By identifying unmet needs in their industry and creating unique solutions, the firm continues to grow with expansion globally.

Peabody Engineering & Supply, Inc. will be recognized and receive its award at the local Small Business Week Awards program which will be held Friday, May 11 from 10:30 a.m. until approximately 2 p.m. at the Disneyland Hotel Grand Ballroom. The event is being hosted by the Orange County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. For information on the event or to register, email [events@ochcc.com](mailto:events@ochcc.com) or call (949) 891-1464.

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#### **About the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)**

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) was created in 1953 and is a Cabinet-level agency of the federal government to aid, counsel, assist and protect the interests of small business concerns, to preserve free competitive enterprise and to maintain and strengthen the overall economy of our nation. The SBA helps Americans start, build and grow businesses, and recover from disasters. Through an extensive network of field offices and partnerships with public and private organizations, the SBA delivers its services to people throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Guam. To learn more about SBA, visit [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov).

#### **About the Orange County / Inland Empire District Office**

The Orange County / Inland Empire District Office, under the leadership and vision of J. Adalberto Quijada, District Director, is responsible for the delivery of SBA programs and services in the Southern California counties of Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino. Located in Santa Ana near John Wayne Airport, the office and its staff facilitate understanding and access to SBA loan programs; coordinate and conduct hundreds of training sessions and special events annually such as matchmaking forums and loan workshops; and manage a portfolio of more than 100 businesses enrolled in the agency's 8(a) business development program.