



A KCA Construction Industry Article of Interest:

Teamwork in Construction

By Rocky Bleier

In my time as a soldier, a professional football player, and a business owner, I have come to understand the value of teamwork. Today I own RBVetCo LLC, a self-performing general contractor that offers pre-construction, site development, and interior finishing services. I had no construction experience before starting RBVetCo in 2004, but the lessons I learned from the playing fields of Notre Dame to the battle fields of Vietnam, honed by the tutelage of the Rooneys and Chuck Noll of the Pittsburgh Steelers are life lessons that I apply to the construction industry.

The Rooneys focused on leadership, people, and vision: find the leader, take care of your people, give them a vision, and the results will follow. The leadership - Chuck Noll; people – nine Hall of Famers; vision - be the best you can be; results - Four Super Bowls.

Chuck Noll said “The single most important thing we had in the Steelers of the 70’s was the ability to work together.” It’s true today as it was true then. Selecting a cohesive team for a project is crucial to provide a good foundation for success. The key to meeting the program goals and vision on any project is successfully choosing the right team and getting them on board early. Coordination of trades is extremely important and the slightest issues can lead to delays.

Like a teammate and a player, each trade contractor brings its own expertise, skills, and values to the table. The general contractor needs to know as much as possible about each subcontractor to select the proper team to align skills that a project needs. But it goes both ways, as a player needs to showcase his specific skill set; it behooves subcontractors to connect with general contractors to educate them on your skillsets to be considered for upcoming projects. A general contractor wants to bring a winning team to each and every project.

Like members of a platoon or players on a field, owners, design professionals, contractors, and subcontractors must work together. Fortunately, like the NFL with its League Office, we have the Keystone Contractors Association – a commercial construction trade association that my company just joined. I look forward to meeting the team at KCA and I've heard nothing but praise about the construction companies that belong to the KCA.

It seems like yesterday I used to pal around with my teammates at practice looking forward to the next game. Now I attend construction association events to build powerful bonds with my new teammates – the sub and specialty contractors that will work on future RBVetCo projects. I look forward to the attending KCA events. For more information visit:

www.KeystoneContractors.com.

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The Author of this article is also the author of “Fighting Back,” which tells the true story of a Notre Dame graduate, who, after becoming a running back for the Pittsburgh Steelers in 1968 was drafted by the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. Injured by a bullet to the thigh and a hand grenade to the lower right leg, Rocky was told that he would never walk again. Not only did he walk again after a long rehabilitation, Rocky returned to train with the Steelers. With the sympathy and support of Steelers' owner, Art Rooney, Rocky made the team again. The Appleton, Wisconsin native was a running back during the period that the Pittsburgh Steelers won four Super Bowl championships.