



Manaras

## George Manaras Dies Suddenly Before Expo

George Manaras, 52, the president and founder of Micanan Systems, died suddenly on May 8, 2012, the day before Expo 2012. The cause of death is reported to be an aneurysm.

The original Manaras operator company was established in 1980 by Mike Manaras, George's father. George, then 21, took the role of vice president of the company. He became active in industry affairs, serving as president of the Canadian Door Institute from 1991 to 1994.

In 1995, when Manaras was sold to Somfy, George became president of the North American operations of the Manaras division of Somfy. He soon left the company.

In 1999, George founded Micanan Systems, a maker of commercial and industrial garage door and gate openers in Montreal, Quebec. By 2001, the company had grown to become the fourth-largest commercial opener company in North America, with more than 30 employees. Today, Micanan has 66 employees and distribution centers in Atlanta and Phoenix.

On May 10 at the IDA President's Awards Banquet at Expo, Cathy Buckingham, a fellow Canadian and IDA treasurer, described George as an "incredible entrepreneur," adding, "It didn't matter what walk of life you came from; you were always welcome around George's table."

Mike Apergis, George's cousin and head of Micanan's U.S. operations, says George was a "dynamic human being" who left a lasting impression on everyone he met, often helping others in need.

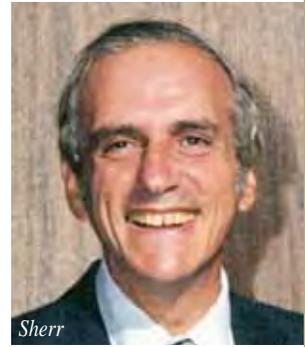
"George's legacy will live on," he added. "With the help of his two sons and the excellence of an experienced management team, Micanan Systems will continue to be a leader in the North American door industry."

Door & Access Systems extends sympathy to his wife, Isabelle, and his sons, Michel and Andy. ■

## Atlas Door Co-Founder Dies

S. Irving Sherr, president and co-founder of Atlas Door, died on March 24, 2012, in Sarasota, Fla., at age 86.

Sherr served in World War II as a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy and later earned a degree in industrial engineering from Columbia University. In 1949, Sherr became a salesman for North American Iron & Steel in Brooklyn, a producer of rolling steel doors. In 1960, the company founded North American Door.



Sherr

In 1974, Sherr and Joel Goldschein started Atlas Door, with Sherr as president. Based in Edison, N.J., the company grew rapidly and became a premier rolling door manufacturer in the U.S. In 1986, Masco bought Atlas Door, and Sherr retired in 1989.

In a 2007 interview with Door & Access Systems, Sherr spoke fondly of his years with Atlas Door: "We were an ideal company. We were smart and effective, we provided a quality product on time, and we kept our promises."

His funeral was held in Westfield, N.J. Contributions can be sent to the American Parkinson Disease Foundation of Staten Island, N.Y., or the National Parkinson Foundation of Miami. Door & Access Systems extends sympathy to his wife, Anne, and his sons, Robert and Daniel. ■

## Maine Dealer Runs for U.S. Senate

On June 12, Debra Plowman, the co-owner of PDQ Door in Maine, is scheduled to run in the Republican primary for the U.S. Senate seat being vacated by Sen. Olympia Snowe.

Plowman and her husband, Dave, started PDQ Door in 1995 with four employees. The company has since grown to employ 50 people in six locations and is headquartered in Hampden, Maine.

Now a state senator and the assistant senate majority leader, Plowman has served four terms in the state senate and four terms in the state house. She runs against several other Senate hopefuls in the Republican primary on June 12. The general election will be held on Nov. 6, 2012. ■



Plowman

## Elton Hires Jerry Hennen



Hennen

In March, Elton Manufacturing announced the addition of Jerry Hennen as its new USA sales representative. Hennen has more than 25 years of experience in the garage door and window industry.

Hennen previously served as vice president of strategic business development at Arrow Tru-Line, where he worked for 15 years. He also served on the DASMA board of directors and was chair of the Associates Division. He holds a B.S. in marketing from West Virginia University. ■

## LiftMaster Promotes Nixa

In March, LiftMaster announced that Dan Nixa is now its director of channel management, a newly created position designed to integrate marketing, sales, and promotional programs across all LiftMaster channels and product lines.

With more than 14 years of marketing, sales, and management experience at LiftMaster, he most recently held the position of director of marketing for residential garage door openers. He also serves as chair of the Marketing/Magazine Committee for DASMA, is chair of the industry's GarageWowNow committee, and currently serves on the IDA board of directors and is the chair of the Membership/Affiliate Committee.

He has served on the board of the Home Improvement Research Institute (HIRI) and holds a B.S.M. from National Louis University in Chicago. ■



Nixa

## Raynor Awards Regional Manager of the Year

In January, Raynor management presented the 2011 Regional Manager of the Year Award to Steve Keller, regional sales manager for Raynor's Grain Belt Region. The award is presented annually to the regional manager who excels in a variety of sales categories.

"Steve's commitment to working hard every day, outstanding dealer support, and developing our Raynor dealer network has led him to a reputation of consistently strong results in his region," says Rick Considine, vice president of sales and marketing.

Keller joined Raynor in 2005, and his region covers Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, and Missouri. In addition to the Regional Manager of the Year Award, Keller also received the Top Gun Award and the Treasurer's Cup. ■



Keller

## LiftMaster Names CDO Marketing Manager

In April, LiftMaster announced the promotion of John Moran to senior marketing product manager for commercial door operators. This new role involves

working across multiple departments to streamline the addition of new commercial operator products.

Moran began his career with LiftMaster in 2005 as marketing

project manager and has held various positions within the commercial products group. He also worked as product manager at IMI Cornelius in Illinois. Moran earned an M.B.A. at Northern Illinois University and an undergraduate degree in engineering at the University of Illinois. ■



Moran

## Raynor Employees Earn CDDC

Several Raynor sales and marketing employees recently passed the Certified Door Dealer Consultant (CDDC) examination. All of Raynor's regional sales managers earned the certification, as well as members of Raynor's marketing and product development teams.

The CDDC designation was developed by the Institute of Door Dealer Education and Accreditation (IDEA) to enable manufacturer sales representatives to learn the needs of door systems dealers. The program is the industry's first independent sales training and certification program for manufacturer sales representatives. ■



### LiftMaster Names Supply Chain Manager

In April, LiftMaster announced the promotion of Luke Krombach to customer demand and supply chain manager for commercial door operators. In this new role, Krombach will identify trends in the commercial industry and provide solutions for managing costs while supporting the sales, business development, and finance departments across the LiftMaster organization.



Krombach

Krombach began working at LiftMaster in 2010 as the field marketing specialist for commercial markets. He previously worked in business development at financial advisory firm Houlihan Smith and Co. Krombach holds an M.B.A. from

Richard DeVos School of Management and a bachelor's degree in business from Northwood University. ■

### Raynor Names Business Development Manager

In January, Raynor promoted Rusty Childers to business development manager, responsible for supporting the growth of national accounts and international sales.

Childers has served in several capacities in his 25 years at Raynor, most recently serving as call center manager. ■



Childers



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