



**BY WILL HOUSTON**

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After learning Hilfiker Pipe Company had won the Greater Eureka Chamber of Commerce's coveted "Business of the Year" award for 2016, the company's co-owner Bill Hilfiker said they were pleasantly surprised. He took it with humor.

"It only took about 115 years. Must be doing something right or they just ran out of businesses to give it away to," Bill Hilfiker said with a laugh to the Times-Standard recently.

Hilfiker Pipe Company was first established in 1902 by John Hilfiker, with Bill Hilfiker and his brother Harold Hilfiker being the fourth generation of the family to run the business.

# The Business of the Year Hilfiker Pipe Company co-owner talks benefits of chamber, history

At the Greater Eureka Chamber of Commerce's annual meeting in January, then-chamber Chairman Ken Musante presented Bill Hilfiker with the "Business of the Year" award and commended their family for being able to keep the business local.

"It is so difficult to pass a business from one generation to the other," Musante said at the time. "We all know how, as the family tree divides, how difficult that type of continuing business is. But if any of your know Bill, Harold and their families you would have a tremendous understanding of why and how they are able to continue that business over four generations."

"... The other point I'd like to add is if you've never been to a Hilfiker holiday party, you're missing out," Musante said in closing.

With such a long company history, Bill Hilfiker said he is unsure when and why his business initially joined the chamber.

However, he knows why they have stayed with the chamber.

"They look out for the business people and keep you informed of what's going on," Bill Hilfiker said. "The lawmakers are always making crazy laws that aren't very good for business and [the chamber] tries to keep you informed. It's a source of information."

Whether it be selling concrete products for local construction or shipping their retaining walls throughout the country and world, Bill Hilfiker said he kept with the family business because of the variety of projects his company gets to work on.

"There is always a different way to skin a cat," Hilfiker said.

More information on Hilfiker Pipe Company can be found online at <http://www.hilfiker.com/>

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