



## 65-Year Member: Life in the Union Is the Only Way to Go

**I**t's said that once a person becomes a union member—it's in his blood. In Waco, Texas, a member who just received his 65-year member pin is living testimony to that fact.

**Mr. B.C. Ashley**, now 94, has spent a lifetime working as a member of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters, and most of the time his chosen craft was as a millwright. His mark can be found at the former Houston Light & Power (now NRG Energy, Inc.), at several plants where he was known to expertly help install new turbines, and as helping to start ADA Maintenance (now Atlantic Plant Maintenance – APM). He also started his own shop, Ashley Maintenance Service.

Mr. Ashley says he is proud of his time as a union man, and wouldn't have spent his career any other way. Mr. Ashley also thinks young people should take a look at being a union member as a viable profession, especially in today's economy.

"Whatever craft you are good at, get recognized for those talents and let the union help you," he said. "You won't get anywhere near as far on your own."

## Texas' Motiva Project Puts Thousands of Man Hours into the SSMRC & UBC Books

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The plant currently converts about 275,000 barrels of crude oil each day into gasoline, jet, tanker and diesel fuel, heating oil, propane, butane and other chemical products. It's also home to the largest single lubricant plant in the USA.

The CEP will hike daily production by 325,000 barrels, making it one of the largest refineries in the United States and among the 10 largest in the world. The expansion includes a new three-unit naphtha processing complex, a catalytic reformer, 725 pumps, 19 compressors, 514 heat exchangers and 54 new tanks. The CEP is equivalent to building the first new refinery in the USA in nearly 40 years.

Construction for the CEP began with site prep in 2006 and groundbreaking in 2007. Since then, SSMRC millwrights have had a steady presence there, joining about 400 contractors and 900 company employees at the plant. At times, SSMRC millwrights find themselves among 5,000 other construction workers employed because of the CEP. The expansion is projected to generate about 300 new full-time jobs upon completion.



"This is traditionally a plant that uses nonunion labor, but we were able to illustrate the skills of our millwrights and the level of training they possess to stay at peak performance for this job," said SSMRC Executive Secretary-Treasurer Dennis Donahou. "It opened a door and we took advantage of the opportunity."

In fact, exceptional union millwright skills helped keep the project on track. Open shop millwrights originally had the work, but project officials found that installations were not done properly. Based on relationships built by SSMRC representatives and the solid history of union millwright contractors when given the chance to work there, the UBC was given a shot to come in and restore productivity.

"We are commissioning all of the units that the open shops handled, verifying that the units were