



# Press Release

**Society of Collision Repair Specialists** • P.O. Box 909, Prosser, WA 99350 • (877) 841-0660 • Fax (877) 851-0660

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For Further Information

Contact Dan Risley, SCRS Executive Director

Phone: (708) 598-3384 or Email: danrisley@scrs.com

## SCRS Announces their 2007/2008 Award Winners

*Prosser, Washington, May 16, 2008* — The Society of Collision Repair Specialists (SCRS) announced their 2007/2008 award recipients at the association's Corporate Awards Dinner on April 15 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Philadelphia. SCRS National Director Bill Garoutte, was this year's awards chairman.

The awards, which fall into several different categories, provide recognition for those individuals or entities that have openly demonstrated their contribution to industry professionalism and betterment. Four awards were presented this year: the Industry Achievement Award, the Collision Industry Individual Achievement Award, the Humanitarian Award and the Lifetime Achievement Award Regionally.

The **Industry Achievement Award** recognizes those that have accomplished a specific deed or created a specific product that has helped the collision industry overall. This year's award went to **Russell Thrall III**, publisher of *CollisionWeek*. Thrall literally grew up working in his father's shop and has assembled a career in industry journalism that dates all the way back to 1991. *CollisionWeek*, founded in 1999, draws upon all his experience, the result being a publication full of the news, statistics and trend analysis—on a global basis—the industry needs to compete and prosper. Thrall has also received the NABC President's Award (2000) and was inducted into the Collision Repair Industry Hall of Eagles (December 2002).

The **Collision Industry Individual Service Award** is presented to those who exhibit actions considered exemplary in maintaining and advancing the collision repair industry. This year's recipient was **Teresa Bolton**, technician specialist with the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE). Bolton has made it her personal crusade to further the work of SkillsUSA and the WorldSkills Competition, which showcase the best technical and trade students in the nation. Teresa spearheads the support and fund-raising efforts for this series of technical contests that, in 2008, will include over 5,000 contestants in 93 separate events. For many she is the face of the program, which is integral to the future of the industry as it creates pride and enthusiasm in young people to become exemplary body and refinish technicians.

The **Humanitarian Award** recognizes an individual or group whose efforts to support humanitarian activities in their community outside the collision repair industry advance the industry itself. This year's award went to **Rollie Benjamin**, president and CEO of ABRA Auto Body & Glass. ABRA recently sponsored its 12th annual Marathon Cup to benefit Courage Center, a rehabilitation and resource center for people with physical disabilities, brain injuries, speech impairments, vision impairments and hearing loss. Twenty-six golfers participated, each one collecting pledges by playing 100 holes of golf in one day. The event raised nearly \$100,000, bringing the ten-year total raised by ABRA's involvement to over \$750,000.

Perhaps the most prestigious award of the evening was the Regional **Lifetime Achievement Award**, offered in recognition of those who give generously to the aid of their respective homeland, consistently over time. The recipient of this award was **Dan Bailey**, president and COO of CARSTAR Franchise Systems.

Bailey operated three body shops in Kansas City with his brother, Bill, for over 20 years before joining CARSTAR Franchise Systems 10 years ago. During that time he has been part of the foundation of the collision industry in Missouri and Kansas and has given much of his time, talent and resources to the industry. The length and breadth of his collective accomplishments is truly noteworthy.

Dan currently serves on the Mitchell advisory board, the SCRS Missouri/Kansas chapter board, the ASA collision division, as a national judge for SkillsUSA /VICA, and as a SCRS national director. As past chairman of the Kansas City/Topeka Chapter of SCRS, Dan directed fund-raising activities for Camp Mak-A-Dream and the sponsorship of a collision repair industry trade fair in Kansas City. Recently Dan attended the 12th Annual Student Night of Achievement for the SCRS Missouri/Kansas Chapter recognizing outstanding students in the technical trade schools throughout Missouri and Kansas. Created under Dan's leadership, he remains actively involved today and is a driving force behind the outstanding local and state collision trade school curriculum in the area.

"The individuals honored set an inspiring example for others—they are some of the best the collision repair industry has to offer," states Garoutte. "Their contributions and accomplishments within and outside the industry, and the passion they so clearly show for their profession, speaks volumes. They, more than most, embrace and live by the credo, 'Working Together Is the Most Important Work We Do.'"

Through its direct members and 34 affiliate associations, SCRS is comprised of 6,000 collision repair businesses and 58,500 specialized professionals who work with consumers and insurance companies to repair collision-damaged vehicles. Additional information about SCRS including other news releases is available at the SCRS Web site: [www.scrs.com](http://www.scrs.com). You can e-mail SCRS at the following address: [info@scrs.com](mailto:info@scrs.com).

###