



Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SCRS 25th Anniversary Celebration One for the Ages

Prosser, Washington, May 7, 2007 — John Loftus, SCRS' first executive director, expected that the organization's 25th anniversary celebration would be a lot of fun—"a great party," in the words of Past Chairman Jeff Hendler. What he and other SCRS members and friends experienced the night of April 10th at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Atlanta, Georgia, turned out to be that and much more.

"I expected nostalgia, and looked forward to getting re-acquainted with all the good folks that have been a part of my life and SCRS," says Loftus. "That happened, but I wasn't prepared for all the positive energy that set the tone for the event. The hundreds of people in attendance were so happy to be part of the SCRS story, that they just couldn't contain themselves."

The celebration was attended by 250 people from the collision repair and related industries. As a once-in-a-lifetime occasion, the affair added up to more than the sum of its agenda, which was nonetheless impressive. Included were a reception and dinner, a 30-minute video retrospective of the Society's history (put together by *CollisionWeek's* Russell Thrall and SCRS Executive Director Dan Risley), several stirring speeches and the presentation of two special awards. National Director Bob Smith received an Individual Service Award, and Sheila Loftus became only the seventh person in history to receive a SCRS Lifetime Achievement Award (full details to be forthcoming in a subsequent press release).

In addition, SCRS company and corporate members were honored, as well as 15 of the past 21 SCRS chairmen, an unprecedented collection of collision repair leadership. "Seeing all the chairmen together in one room with John made the night memorable," states Risley. In that way, the night wasn't a celebration of accomplishments—it was a celebration of the many individuals that have worked so hard to help the collision repair industry."

Jeff Hendler, who played a key role in planning the event, couldn't help but be moved. "We prepared for over a year, and the evening still exceeded all our expectations," he says. "You can't plan for that kind of exuberance. I'm just glad to be part of an organization that created an atmosphere people obviously

cherished. SCRS Past Chairman Paul Hutton called it his ‘finest hour’. A lot of people felt that way, including me.”

More than one individual admitted that the milestone gained poignancy from the knowledge that some in attendance might not be present for a 50th anniversary. That being said, the evening left little doubt that the spirit of SCRS would live beyond any set number of years.

“Long after all the accolades and applause are gone, the people in the room that night will know they can stand tall on what SCRS has built,” says Loftus. “From the days of the body man, to the modern era of the collision repair technician, we’ve understood that any good we accomplish is built on the foundation of working together. We agree to disagree, because open discussion gets things done. ‘Working Together is the Most Important Work We Do’—that sentiment fuels the organization, just as it fueled that special April evening.”

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. You can e-mail SCRS at the following address: info@scrs.com.

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