



**WORLD FLOOR COVERING
ASSOCIATION**

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Vance Bell Named to World Floor Covering Association Hall of Fame

Well-Deserved Recognition of Industry Icon

June 12, 2019 – *Dalton, Ga.* — The World Floor Covering Association has named Vance Bell, chairman and chief executive officer of Shaw Industries, to the industry’s Hall of Fame. Bell has become the 49th inductee since the Hall of Fame was established in 1992. Bell will be joining a distinguished list of industry pioneers and leaders who have received this honor. He will be inducted during a ceremony at the World Floor Covering Association’s 60th Anniversary celebration at Barnsley Resort on Thursday, September 19, 2019.

“I am honored to endorse a well-deserved recognition to a man I’ve known for over 35 years, Vance Bell. He is unique, as Vance has dedicated his entire career to one company and one industry. He has believed in the flooring industry and contributed all his energy into making it better. His contributions are numerous. It’s hard to capture them all; both direct and indirect. Through his actions and strategies, he has always held a high standard of integrity for himself and his organization. He has been instrumental in building Shaw Industries into one of the top floor-covering companies in the world, and he did it with incredible ethics and values. He has been a true advocate of making this industry superior; creating advantages for consumers, retailers, and mills. I can think of no one more respected and more deserving of this honor than Vance Bell. He understands the meaning and value of “partnerships” with customers,” said Howard Brodsky, WFCA Hall of Fame member, chairman and chief executive officer of

CCA Global Partners. "I am proud and honored to have him inducted as the newest member of the HOF. His lifelong contributions will be sealed with this recognition."

Born in Macon, Georgia, Bell attended Georgia Tech where he played football and in 1973 received a degree in Industrial Management. After graduating, he went to work for West Point-Pepperell before joining Shaw Industries in 1975.

Bell is the chairman and chief executive officer of Shaw Industries Group, the largest carpet manufacturer in the world. Based in Dalton, Georgia, Shaw is a subsidiary of billionaire investor Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway Inc. Bell was named chairman and chief executive officer in 2006 succeeding Robert Shaw, the man who hired him back in the 70's. During his decades with Shaw, Bell has worked with everything from sales and marketing to manufacturing and operations. Shaw now boasts more than \$6 billion in annual sales and has approximately 23,000 employees.

"The WFCA, Hall of Fame exists in big part to preserve the history of our industry and to celebrate the accomplishments of highly influential leaders. Vance Bell provided stability and continuity along with innovation, vision and change during a very critical transition at Shaw and through the worst recession our industry has ever experienced. He is a highly gifted, respected and accomplished leader who asks, listens, thinks, takes ownership and action. Perhaps his greatest attributes are his grounded family values and his desire to serve others. I suspect he would say his wife should be co-recipient. He has remained humble and is a man of highest integrity. Vance Bell is certainly worthy of this outstanding recognition," said Ron Dunn, co-chief executive officer of CarpetsPlus COLORTILE.

"The Hall of Fame is not about single events or simply an honor for those who participated but is instead about celebrating those who have worked hard to support and grow our industry's professionalism and the people who rely on this industry for their livelihood. It is a prestigious honor for those who have left a legacy for future leaders, said Scott Humphrey, chief executive officer of the World Floor Covering Association. "I have personally been blessed to grow under Vance Bell's guidance. His leadership brought vision, which he articulated with passion.

His determination to make our industry the best it can be has achieved great success for Shaw and the entire industry.”

ABOUT WFCA

The World Floor Covering Association (WFCA), is the official sponsor of The International Surface Event (TISE), and is the floor covering industry's largest advocacy organization, representing floor covering retailers, contractors and allied service providers throughout North America. The WFCA is a recognized leader in marketing research and industry programs for flooring professionals. In addition, it publishes the only retailer-oriented trade periodical, *Premier Flooring Retailer*. As part of its mission to enhance the business environment for the independent flooring retailer the WFCA acquired the Certified Floorcovering Installers Association (CFI) in an effort to resolve the industry's largest issue – the shortage of qualified installers. The WFCA oversees the Floor Covering Business to Business (fcB2B) program, helping companies in the industry transition to an e-commerce platform for all business transactions. The WFCA also influences public policy affecting the floor covering industry and consumers. For more information about the WFCA, visit WFCA.org.

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