

**Press Release:** January 22, 2010 – ST. THOMAS, VI

**Title:** BOB KIPP, COMMON GROUND ALLIANCE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RECEIVES THE CAROLINAS AGC *BUILD WITH THE BEST* AWARD AT 89<sup>TH</sup> CONVENTION

Mr. Bob Kipp, charter Executive Director of the Common Ground Alliance (CGA) has received the Carolinas AGC *Build with the Best Award* for his contributions to the Carolinas construction industry.

Mr. Kipp has taken a fledgling organization and nursed it into one of the most respected underground utility safety and damage prevention organizations in North America. His leadership and unequalled ability to understand and coordinate a diverse universe of stakeholders in addressing difficult issues has benefited all safety and damage prevention stakeholder groups, particularly the construction industry.

Officially formed in 2001, the CGA represents a continuation of the damage prevention efforts embodied by the [Common Ground Study](#) (CGS). Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Transportation and completed in 1999, the CGS represents the collaborative work of 160 industry professionals who identified best practices relating to damage prevention. Carolinas AGC staff and members played key leadership roles in the study and formation of the CGA. After the CGA was established, its Board of Directors conducted a continent wide search for an individual with the skills, foresight and knowledge to move the organization forward. This person would basically build the organization from the ground up, while at the same time being true to its goal of “shared responsibility” in addressing the often difficult issues associated with conducting excavation activities in our underground facility congested rights-of-way. The Board found the leader who could help us realize the promise of the CGA, and that leader was Bob Kipp.



**Left to Right: Carolinas AGC Chairman, Mike Long, Pres. Taylor-Murphy Constr. Co., Bob Kipp and Jonathan Mangles, Greer and Walker LLP (Awards Dinner Sponsor)**

Prior to the Common Ground Study, and subsequent establishment of the CGA, there was no single venue for underground safety and damage prevention stakeholders to work together. Most efforts were conducted by one stakeholder group or another addressing their particular concerns with little input on how the “call before you dig” process affected other stakeholders. In some cases, this

environment led to a polarization of stakeholder groups and conflicts in the implementation of effective safety and damage programs across the continent, and in the Carolinas. Often, the construction industry was not included in the development and implementation of such programs; even though we



**Bob Kipp Addresses the 300 Plus Attendees During the Carolinas AGC Pinnacle Awards Banquet in St. Thomas, VI**

are an integral part of the process and the safety of our workforce, industry and our livelihood is directly affected. The CGA and its concept of “shared responsibility” is changing this and having a positive effect as the “best practices” are being embraced by more stakeholders and incorporated into our underground utility safety and damage prevention programs and laws.

Today the Common Ground Alliance is recognized by the USDOT, National Transportation Safety Board and all stakeholder industries as the optimal forum where stakeholders can share information and perspectives working together on all aspects of damage prevention

issues. This allows the achievement of results that would otherwise be impossible.

Bob Kipp is to be credited as a role model for working with industry stakeholders and regulators to produce stronger, more effective results through partnership and collaboration in the pursuit of common ground in underground utility safety and damage prevention.

**Congratulations to Bob Kipp on the 2009 Carolinas AGC *Build with the Best Award*.**

Carolinas AGC's Build with the Best award is presented to an individual outside the construction industry. This award honors a person whose efforts have contributed not only to safety and the betterment of our industry, but also to the overall economic welfare of the Carolinas