

## SSA Containers' DeNike wins West Coast Connie Award

Bill Mongelluzzo, Senior Editor | Sep 19, 2018 4:33PM EDT



Fifty-two-year shipping industry veteran Ed DeNike received the West Coast Containerization & Intermodal Institute Connie Award Tuesday in Long Beach, California. Photo credit: JOC staff.

Ed DeNike, president of SSA Containers and a 52-year veteran of the terminal operating industry, received the 2018 West Coast Connie Award that is presented each year by the Containerization & Intermodal Institute.

DeNike managed marine terminals in San Francisco, Oakland, and Long Beach before joining the SSA management team in Seattle in 1983. He was a member of the Blue Ribbon Committee that rewrote the Pacific Coast longshore contract and continues to serve on the board of the Pacific Maritime Association. He was involved in container equipment design since the early days of containerization in the 1960s.

### 52 years in one industry

“How do you describe 52 years in one industry? The waterfront is different, challenging, and wonderful,” DeNike told the Connie Award ceremonies Tuesday evening in Long Beach. Recounting his early days on the waterfront in San Pedro at the Port of Los Angeles, DeNike said he learned equally from labor and management veterans much older than he. “The more I listened, the more I wanted to be part of this industry,” he said.

DeNike took pride in recounting his contributions to the design of cargo-handling equipment as the maritime industry transitioned from breakbulk to containers. Even more gratifying, he said, were the friendships he has enjoyed with industry executives, longshore rank and file and International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) presidents dating back to former ILWU president Jimmy Herman in the 1970s. He also recounted the friendships he has shared with executives at shipping lines and equipment manufacturers in Asia with whom he did business. "They're good people. That's what I remember," he said.

DeNike is part of the SSA management team that operates container terminals in Long Beach, Oakland, and Seattle.