

# PLUMBERS & STEAMFITTERS

OC NEWS

DECEMBER 2025

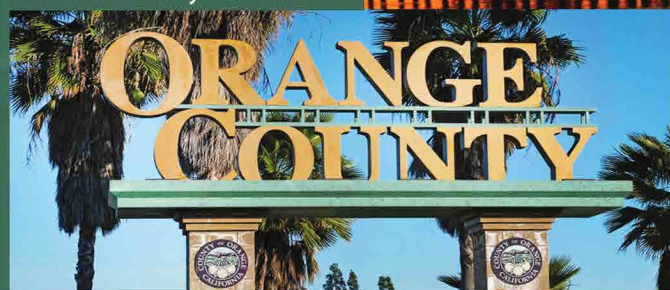


ELEVATE THE STANDARD

# MANAGER'S REPORT



Robert "Bobby" James



Wow, 2025 flew by not sure if its age but, time flies when you're busy and we have been busy this year. That's a good thing Right. I think most of us know how this stuff works, I am talking about construction the old saying "Feast or Famine" Let's hope for everyone that the feast continues. As best we can tell without a crystal ball, next year should be decent, fingers crossed. So, I will end this article like everything else Please keep your certs up to date, make sure you get JUT done on time. Take care of your brothers and sisters on the job site, none of this is easy so let's not make it harder than it has to be. I would like to wish all of you the very best for the holidays and for next year.

Thank you,  
Robert "Bobby" James

*Robert James*



PLUMBERS & STEAMFITTERS NEWS  
December 2025  
A Publication of UA LOCAL 582

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Brian Kruep-North

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## REPORT

ADAM ELLIOTT



Brothers and sisters,  
I hope this Holiday season finds you and your loved ones healthy and happy.

Local 582's membership has been steadily increasing and is now well above 1,100. I would like to welcome our Vice-President and new Organizer Brother Kirk Halonen to our staff here in the office. Kirk is off to a great start and will help the Local grow. We recently signed McKeown Plumbing to the full Master Labor Agreement. They are a small contractor who is looking to grow with Union partnership.

Public work requires 20% apprentice hours per project. This is a great organizing tool. When we send apprentices to a non-Union contractor, we can walk the job, talk to the crew and potentially build a relationship with the owner. When our apprentices keep working hard toward mastering their skills it becomes our largest tool.

We are currently up to 311 apprentices, and most are doing a great job! Apprentices, please remember to stay current with OJT hours. We continue to interview potential Journeymen and apprentices. Bringing in experienced welders is at the top of our list.

Happy Holidays,  
Adam Elliott

## REPORT

KIRK HALONEN



Brothers and sisters,  
October 6th was my first official day on the job as your new Organizer. Since then, I helped prepare for and participate in our Local 582 Organizing Blitz, as well as attended the new Organizer training at UA headquarters in Annapolis, Maryland. New Organizer training ran for a full week and has been a huge help getting me started in my new position.

As your Organizer, I will be putting the pressure on the non-signatory contractors. To do this, I am asking for your help. Whenever you're on a jobsite and you see a non-union contractor doing our work, whether it's fitting, plumbing or sprinkler, I want to know about it. Please call me. Any information you can provide is greatly appreciated.  
Thank you all for your support.

Fraternally,  
Kirk Halonen  
Organizer



# NORTH End of Year REPORT

BRIAN KRUEP

Let me start by wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! It continues to be an honor to serve as your Business Agent here at Local 582. This past year was truly one for the books, and the momentum heading into 2026 is even stronger.

OC Vibe is moving full steam ahead, with members currently on-site working for multiple signatory contractors. The DisneylandForward expansion is expected to take off next year, and the work picture across North Orange County is looking extremely promising.

We need welders—so if you don't have your pipe certs yet, now is the time to get them. With the volume of hospital projects coming to Southern California, Certified Med-Gas installers are also in high demand. Remember to keep all your certifications up to date and be ready when the calls come in.

Continue setting the highest standards for every job. Each of us plays a role in representing Local 582, and the reputation we carry is built by the daily actions of our members. Let's all do our part to keep Orange County and Local 582 at the top. Thank you once again for your trust and support. Let's keep the momentum going. I look forward to serving you and working together to make the next three years some of our best yet.

Fraternally,  
Brian Kruep  
Business Agent North



# SOUTH End of Year REPORT

HENRY HILLEBRECHT

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year Brothers and Sisters, I hope that you are all doing well. 2025 was a good year, and we had more man hours than previously in 2024.

The Fitter side did extremely well, with almost zero fitter Apprentices and Journeymen on the Out of Work book for the year. The Plumber side did well also, but it could have been better. We were out of Apprentice Plumbers most of the year, but the Out of Work book for Journeyman Plumbers seemed to always hover around 20 to 27 Journeymen. We had a large dispatch, then a week or two later, another job would have layoffs, we just couldn't get over that hump. I am hoping that 2026 will be a prosperous year for Plumbers and Fitters, OC Vibe will be ramping up to full speed, Disneyland Forward project is beginning, along with Saddleback Hospital Central Plant and the new tower to be added at Mission Hospital.

My holiday wish for 2026 to all my Brothers and Sisters at Local 582, is for all of our members and their families to be healthy and work to be overflowing, so everyone can be thriving. I want to thank you all for letting me represent you, our members, at Local 582. I look forward to representing all of you in 2026. I will always do my best for Local 582. Once again, a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of Local 582 members.

Fraternally  
Henry Hillebrecht  
Business Agent South



# A&J TRAINING THE HIGHEST QUALITY

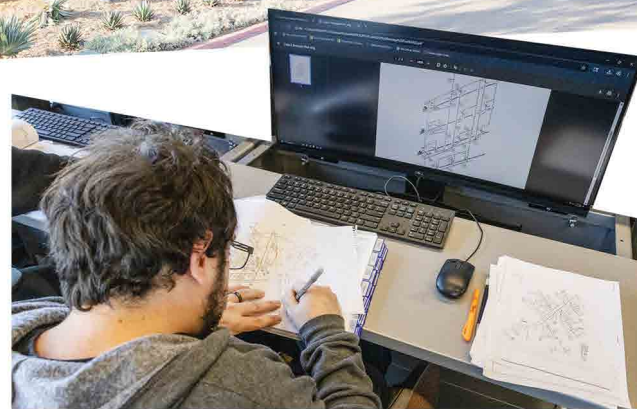
# WORKFORCE FOR TODAY AND THE FUTURE Over 65 Years Of Experience & Growing Stronger



The Apprentice and Journeymen Training Trust delivers the state of the art education to District 16 members.

Our training secures the future of our industry by equipping our members with top-tier piping skills to maintain industry excellence and competitiveness.

**OUR MISSION**  
To deliver excellence in training to cultivate the advancement and growth of elite piping professionals. Thus, strengthening the competitive advantage of our industry partners with the highest quality workforce.



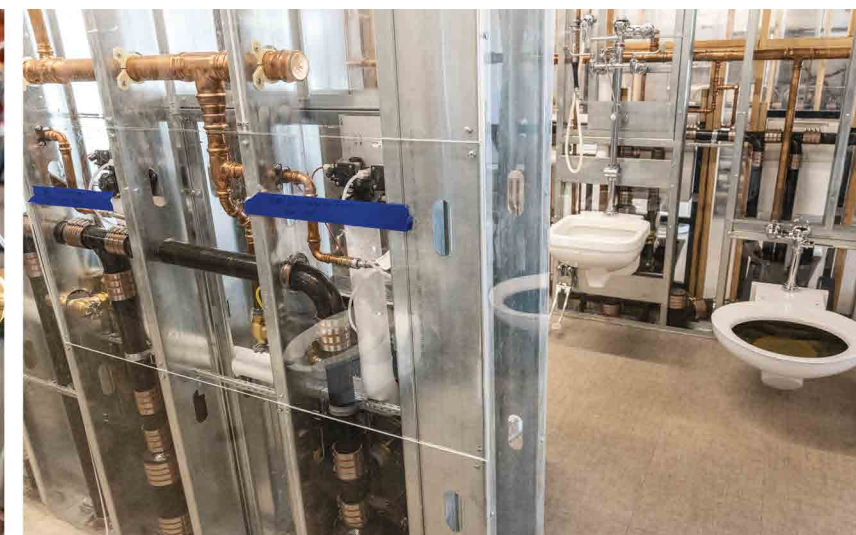
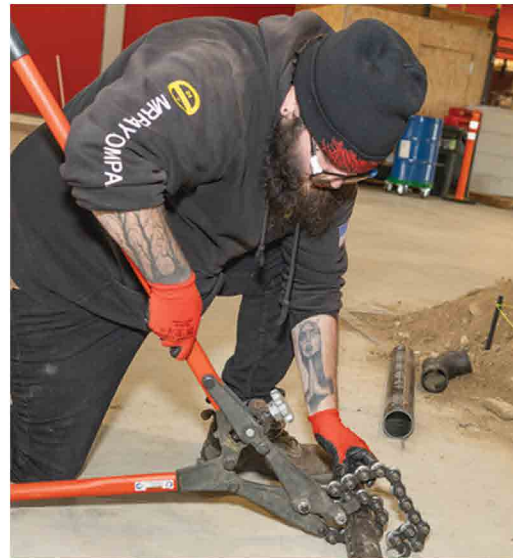
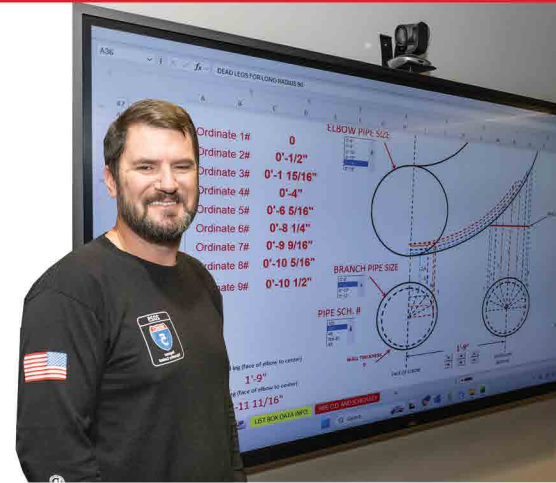
- 910 Underground Installation & Utilities
- 912 Water Heaters and Utilities
- 915 Water Supply Systems
- 921 Storm Drain/Rain Water Harvest
- 924 Risk Assessment, QA/QC & Customer Service
- 927 Code II - NITC Plumber Exam
- 1015 Pipe Fabrication & Layout
- 1024 Valve Repair
- 1029 NITC Pipefitter Exam
- 1224 Arc Welding IV





A&J TRAINING THE HIGHEST QUALITY

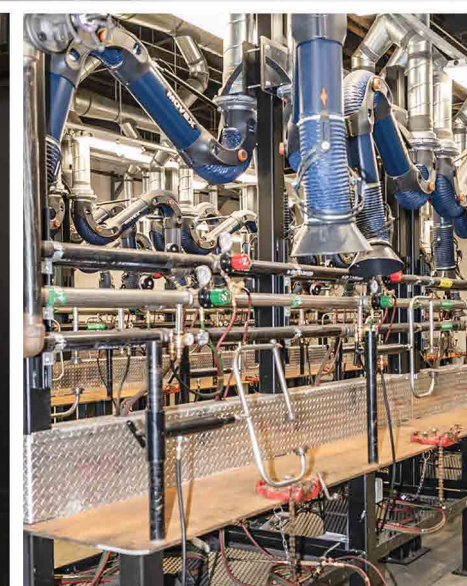
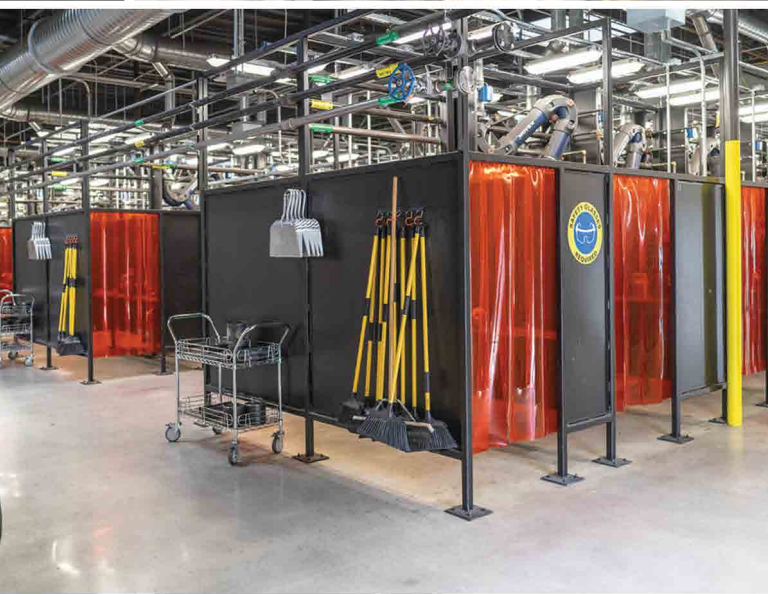
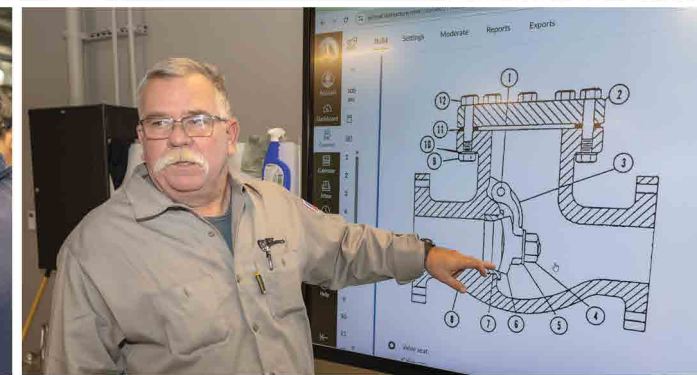
THE PATH THAT CERTIFIES THE FUTURE FOR THOUSANDS





A&J TRAINING THE HIGHEST QUALITY

GUIDANCE EVERY STEP OF THE WAY BY THE MOST EXPERIENCED TEACHERS





# Brymax Mechanical

DELIVERING SUPERIOR QUALITY

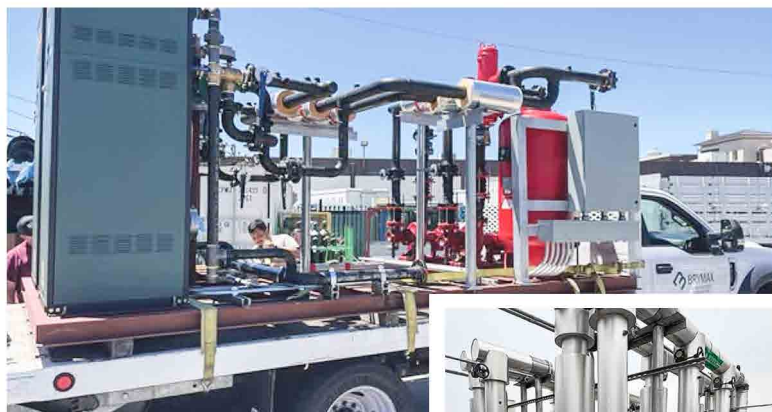
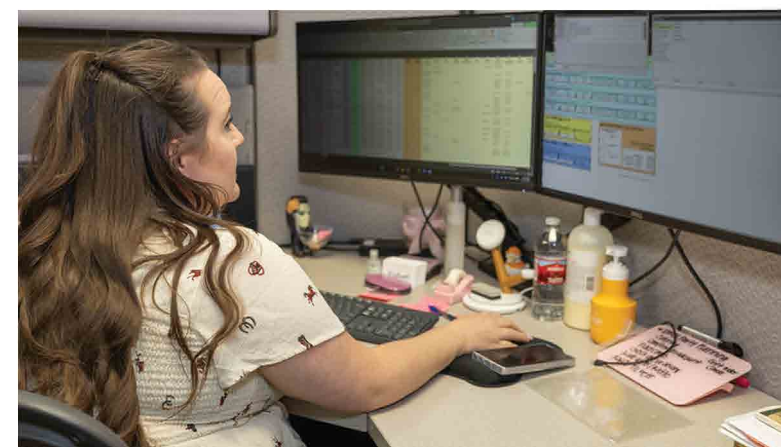
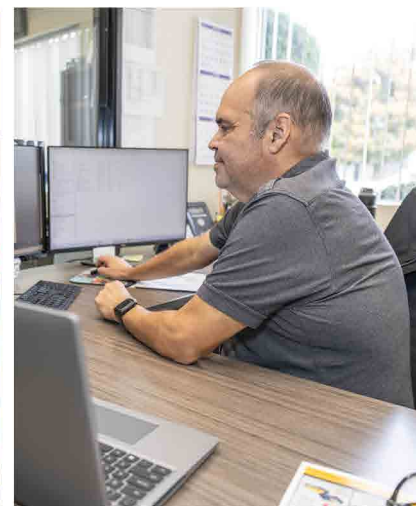
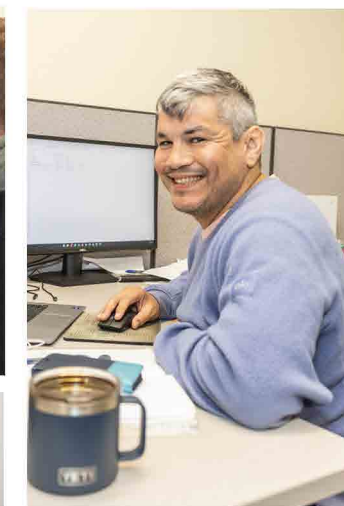


BRYMAX Mechanical Services Inc., is a woman-owned and operated Construction Services company founded in 2015 by Brooke Willems. BRYMAX boasts several notable certifications that distinguish it from competitors, including the Women Business Enterprise (WBE), the Small Business Enterprise (SBE), and most importantly, the Women-Owned Small Business (WOSB) honor through both public and federal entities.

Michael Willems, P.E., joined BRYMAX Construction Services in 2018 to pioneer and head the Design-Build/Design-Assist HVAC Construction group, and brought with him several key executives and personnel from a former Design-Build Mechanical Contractor to bolster the team and add a degree of reputable expertise to the nascent company.

Under the guidance of a qualified team of engineers and construction industry veterans, the Design-Build Mechanical Contractor division would grow from a team of one into a \$55M a year HVAC Subcontractor with over 350 employees and HVAC Subcontracts in excess of \$30M. BRYMAX prides itself on its in-house Design-Build HVAC Construction Services and Procurement Management, and over \$100M of Procurement and HVAC Projects in place. As a signatory union HVAC, BRYMAX also actively participates in Tenant Improvement and Plan/Spec projects.

With over 150 employees, and extensive experience between our Designers, Project Managers and Field Supervision personnel, BRYMAX is committed to delivering the superior quality and delivery of our product per the reputation for excellence and diligence that has come to be associated with the BRYMAX brand.



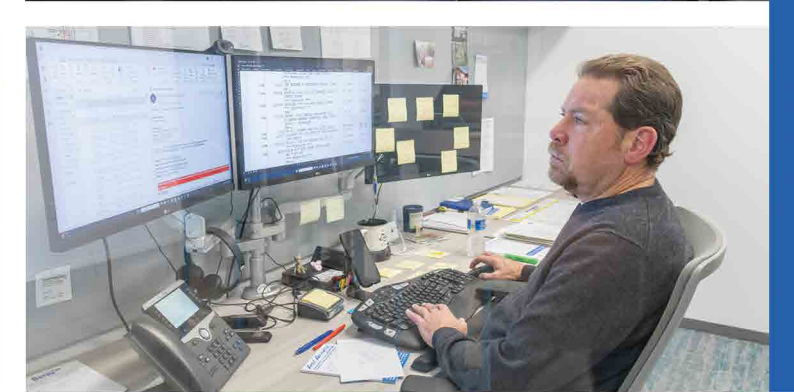
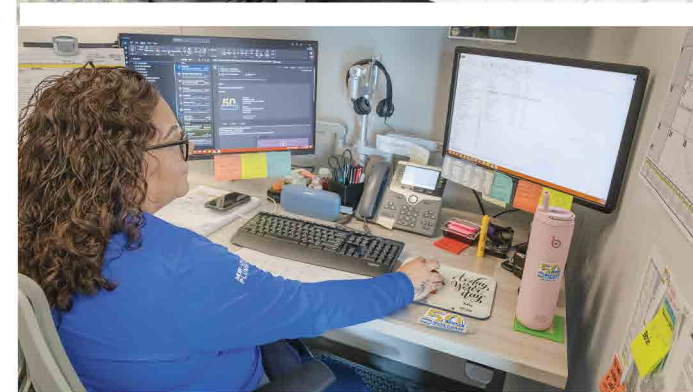
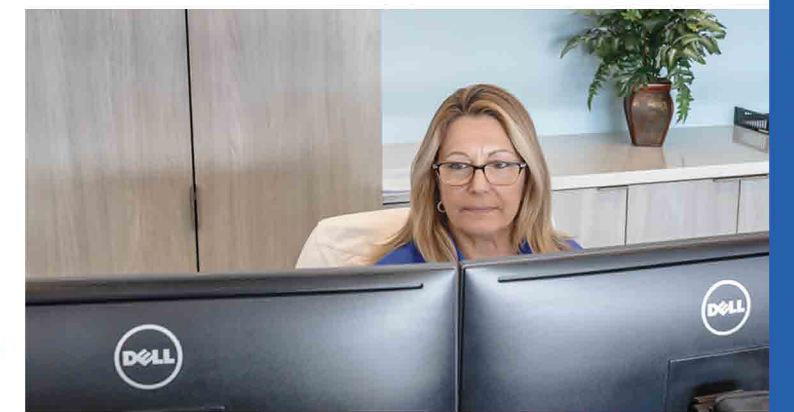
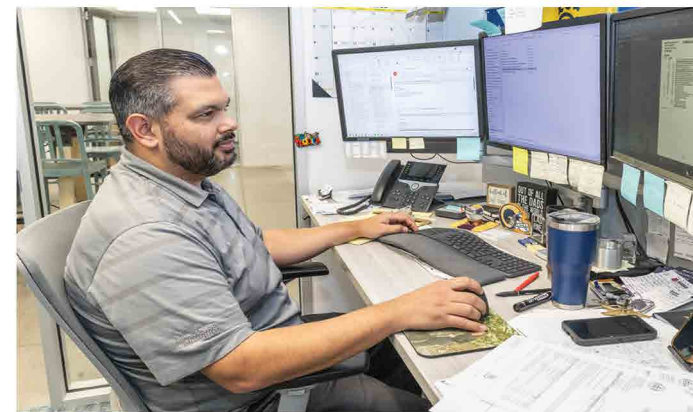
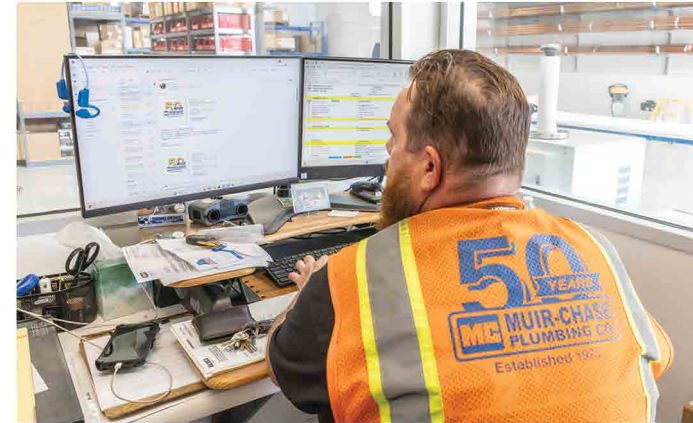


**Founded in 1975**

by Neal Muir and Bill Chase, Muir-Chase has been the preferred commercial plumbing contractor for Southern California over the past 50 years. Now in its third generation, Muir-Chase continues to exhibit the same craftsmanship and dedication that has led to so much success over the last half-century. Employing a large team of highly skilled and licensed union plumbers from locals such as 582, Muir-Chase continues to strive for excellence and a commitment to high-quality installation, doing things the right way, not always the easy way. Muir-Chase is grateful for its partnership with Local 582 and looks forward to an ongoing relationship for many years to come.



ORANGE COUNTY DIVISION

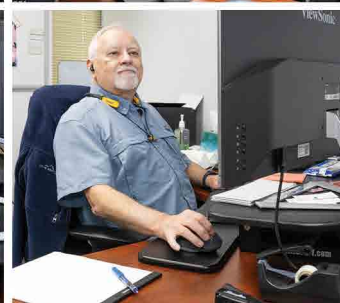
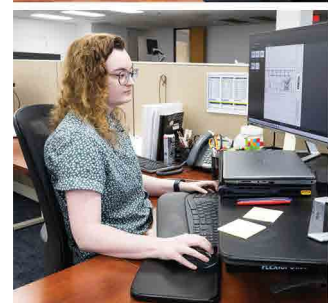
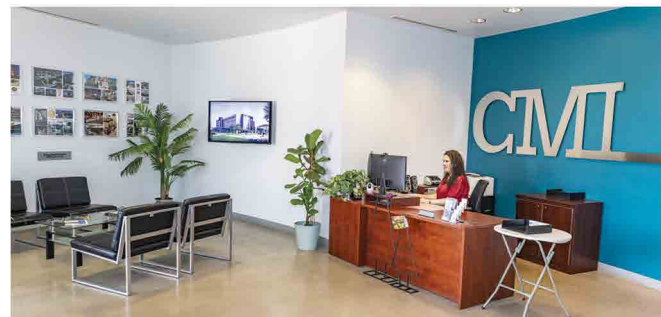




**CMI**  
CRITCHFIELD MECHANICAL, INC.



Critchfield Mechanical, Inc. (CMI) is an award-winning mechanical contractor located in Huntington Beach. Specializing in design, fabrication and installation of HVAC systems, our commitment to excellence and passion for forming deep, lasting relationships has cemented us as a highly respected industry leader. Welcome to the CMI way.



DESIGN COORDINATE BUILD SUSTAIN





# Retired Veteran Adolph Novello returns Vietnam War relics to a fallen soldier's family in Hanoi

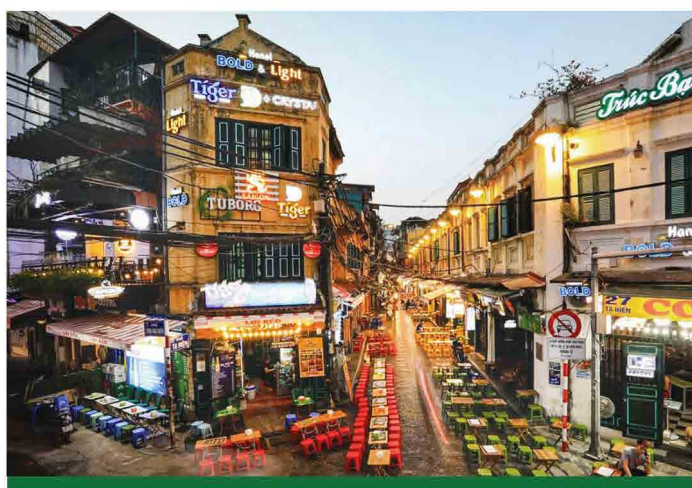


For more than 57 years the objects never saw the light of day. Shut up inside an old box bound with tape, they remained out of sight but never really out of mind for Adolph Novello, the former U.S. Marine who placed them there, alongside a prayer book and a string of rosary beads, at age 20 following a 13-month stint in Vietnam.

Some identification papers, old coins, a lighter and a homemade wallet, containing a tiny black and white photo of an unnamed North Vietnamese soldier in his teens, who died in combat in 1967. The artifacts didn't amount to much - they could be held in two cupped hands - but their weight was immeasurable to Novello, who carried them with him from Vietnam to his hometown of Chicago and eventually to California, locked up tight inside that box, and in his heart, for half a century.

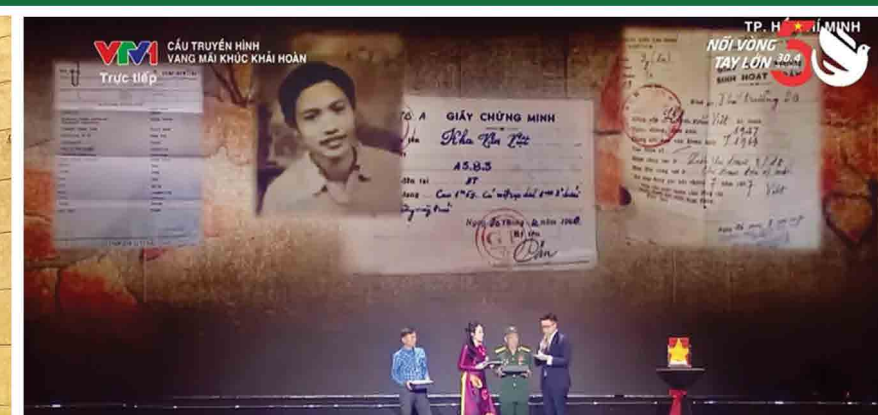
Today, the 76-year-old Murrieta resident recalls acquiring the objects after some skirmish or other in North Vietnam, where servicemen were ordered to scour the field for still-living soldiers to take into custody and to search the bodies of the fallen for intel or maps that might reveal enemy war plans.

"I had an empty C-rations box and I put everything in there, whatever it was I'd acquired, and before I left Vietnam, I sent it home," Novello said of the now-relics. "I really hadn't touched it, because I knew what was in there, and I didn't want to remember what was in there."



It wasn't until this March, while attending a speaker series hosted by the Heroes Hall veterans museum on the Orange County fairgrounds, that Novello was inspired to open up that box. After the talk, Novello went into the garage to search through his own memorabilia for photos of the award ceremony and was confronted by the C-rations box gathering dust on a high shelf.

That simple act kicked off a journey that would take the septuagenarian and Heroes Hall historian Brenton Ogden across the globe, retracing the former Marine's steps through Vietnam just as the nation prepared to celebrate the 50th commemoration of the fall of Saigon.



"He brought in objects and ephemera he had from his service in Vietnam that were from a North Vietnamese soldier," the historian said. "And Adolph nonchalantly mentioned he wanted to see if his family could be located to give the artifacts back." Ogden located the identity of the soldier in the photo - Kha Van Viet - who hailed from a Thai ethnic family living in the central highlands of Vietnam.

On April 23, the pair undertook the long journey, from LAX to Ho Chi Minh City, then on to Hanoi. They met with Kha's nephew and cousin, who officially received the objects in a ceremony, attended by numerous national dignitaries and televised by Vietnam's state-owned VTV-4. Novello was interviewed multiple times by journalists eager to hear the details of his story, but recounting events long suppressed wasn't easy. The veteran choked up during the broadcast when talking about some of what he experienced.

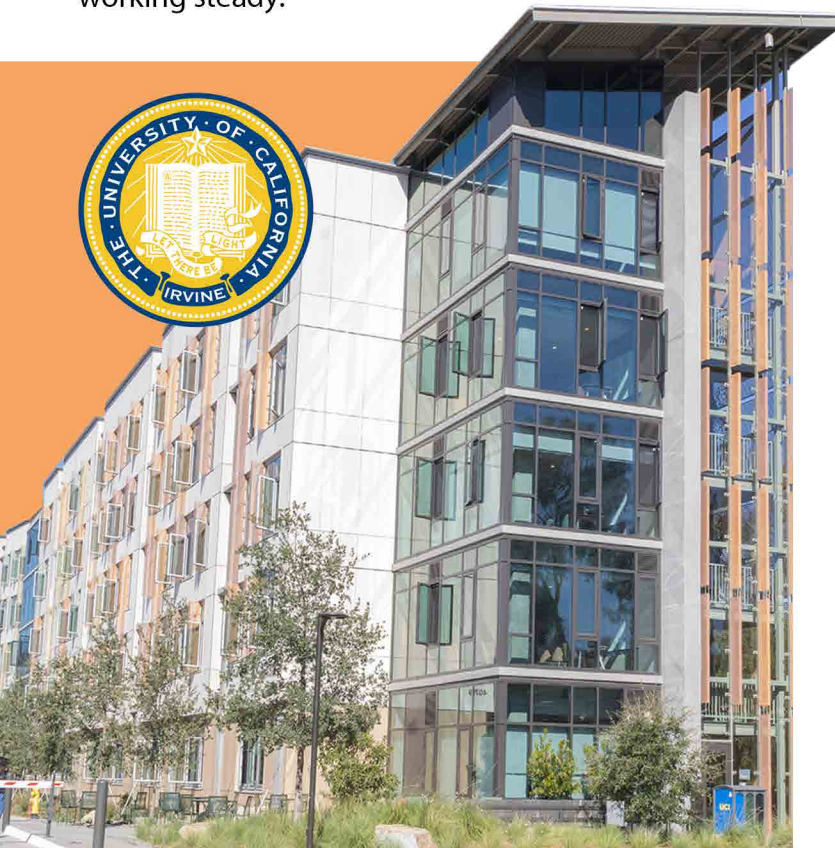
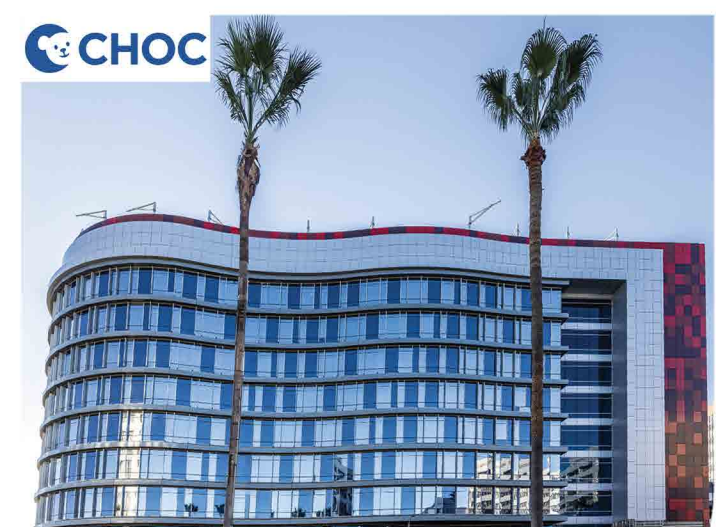
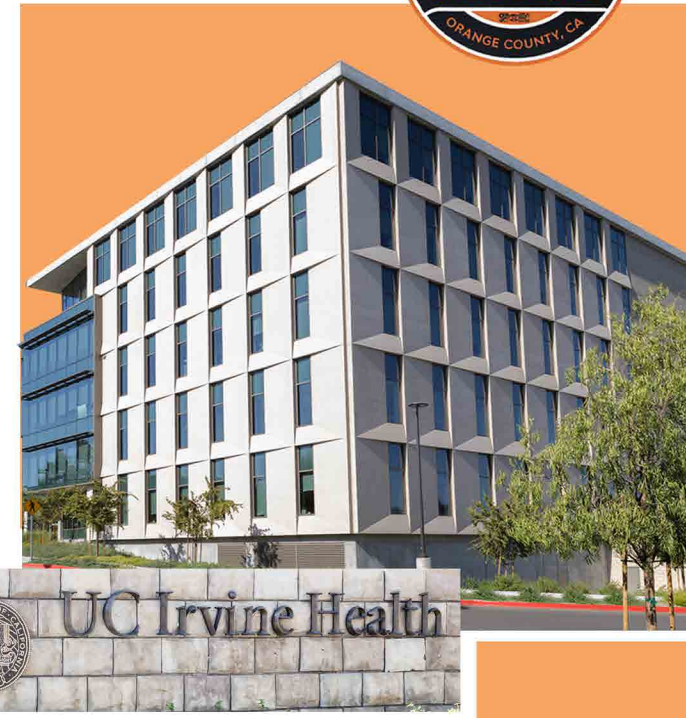
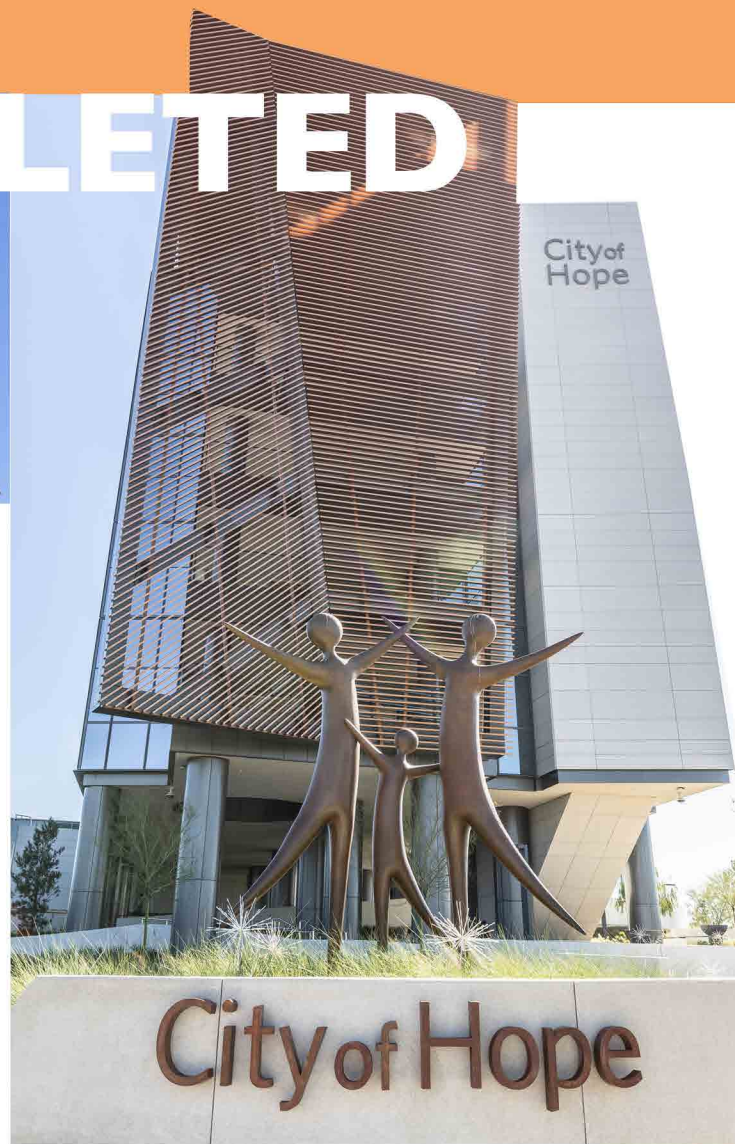
"You figure if you just stayed tight-lipped about it and didn't say anything to anybody, it would be OK," he said. "But, truthfully, it really wasn't. It was terrible and still is."

"I did sleep pretty good last night, for a change," he acknowledged Friday, one day after returning stateside. "Hopefully, with all the different interviews and talking to people there I can talk to my kids and my wife about it. I think it will clear some stuff up - I think it will change everything."

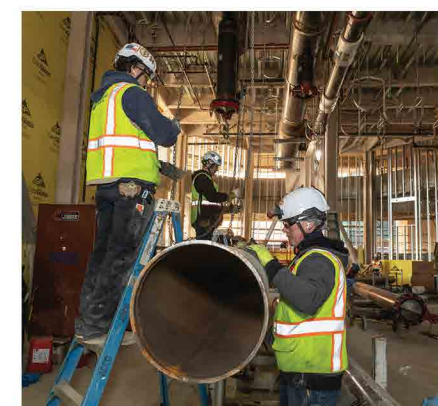
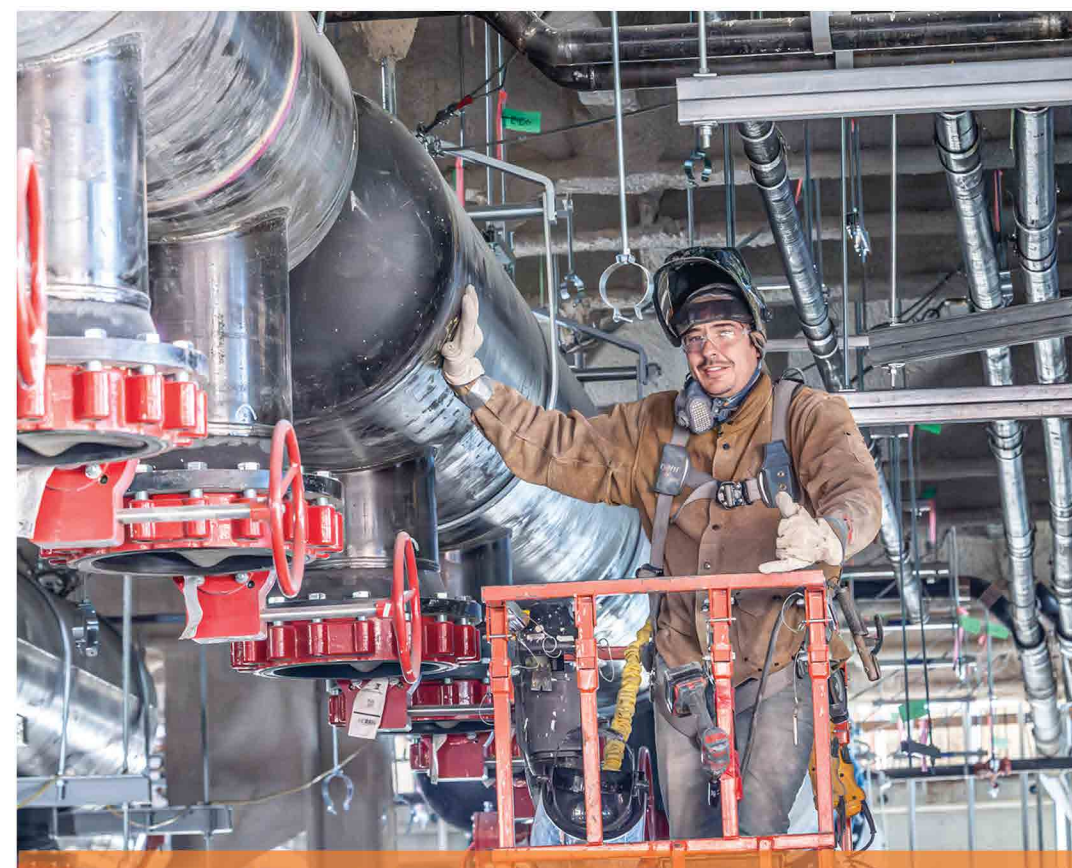
# WORK COMPLETED



Work in Orange County looks good for 2026. At OC Vibe alone, there is \$2B worth of work on the outside of the Honda Center and another \$1B on the interior being remodeled. Disney Forward is supposed to start in 2026, and that is an additional \$2B in work. In South County, Mission Hospital in Mission Viejo will be constructing a \$850M expansion of a new tower. In Laguna Hills, Saddleback Hospital, is adding a new state-of-the-art \$500M central plant. There have been some very high-profile jobs that also completed in 2025; UCI Irvine Hospital Campus, UCI Falling Leaves, City of Hope Irvine, CHOC Southwest Tower and UCI Student housing. Local 582 members did a great job in 2025 on the above job sites and they will continue do so in 2026. Local 582 is hoping that 2026 will have more man hours than we did in 2025, and have all of our Brothers and Sisters are working steady.



# WORK IN PROGRESS



# SWEARING IN NEW OFFICERS AUGUST MEETING



At the August meeting all the new officers were sworn in by District Council 16 Business manager Rodney Cobos. Every month Local 582 has also been bringing in new members and swearing them in at our monthly Union meetings in front of all our members. Local 582 is proud that our membership has been steadily growing, and we have grown to 1141 members strong.



# UNION MEETING NIGHT THANKSGIVING DINNER

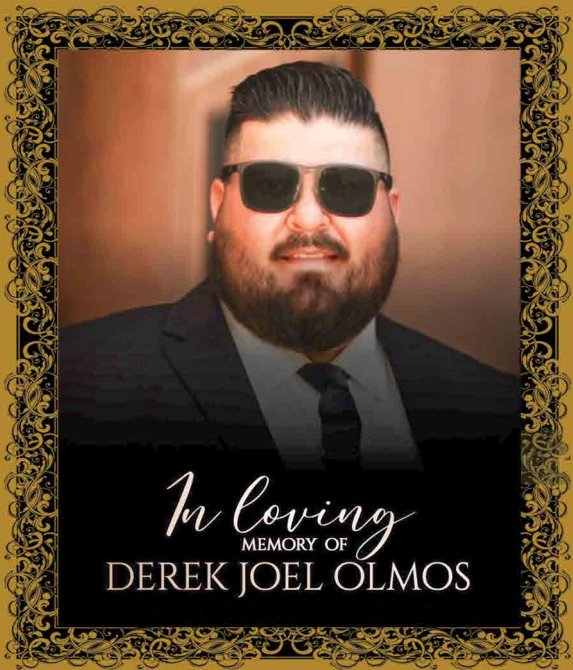


The November meeting at Local 582 is always a great meeting to attend. There is always a good turnout of members and good food for all. To celebrate Thanksgiving with our Brothers and Sisters, we brought in special BBQ, with brisket, pulled pork and corn bread, mac n cheese and slaw. We even had fresh baked chocolate chip cookies for dessert. We had 120-130 members in attendance. Thank you to all who showed up to make it a great night.



# DEREK JOEL OLMOS

Brother Derek passed away unexpectedly at age of 32 last June. We were all hit by this very hard. Derek has family members in Local 582, brother, Frank Federico, and his Uncle, Robert Olmos and along with many friends. Derek also served on the Examining Board for Local 582 and was always at union meetings with a smile on his face. Derek will be missed dearly by all his brothers and sisters at Local 582.



November 5th 1992 – June 26th 2025

Mom,

I'M WITH THE ANGELS NOW, WRAPPED IN GOD'S PEACE AND LIGHT. I KNOW YOUR HEART ACHES, BUT PLEASE DON'T THINK I'M FAR—I'M RIGHT BESIDE YOU, IN THE QUIET MOMENTS, IN YOUR PRAYERS, IN YOUR DREAMS. YOUR LOVE RAISED ME, YOUR FAITH CARRIED ME, AND NOW, IT CONNECTS US STILL. I'LL WAIT FOR YOU IN HEAVEN, BUT UNTIL THEN, FEEL ME IN EVERY BEAT OF YOUR HEART. I NEVER TRULY LEFT - I JUST WENT AHEAD.  
"He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain."  
- Revelation 21:4



UA Local 582



# DC 16 BLITZ OCTOBER 2025

On October 28,29 and 30th 2025, District Council 16 held a mini blitz in Orange County with all the Organizer's from District Council 16 led by John Ferruccio and Tim Redondo. Every morning at 6am, the Organizer's met here at Local 582 for their briefing and locations to hit on their Blitz. The Blitz went really well, and they all got a lot of information, and the Organizers reported that on this Blitz. There were a lot of contractors and workers who were interested and wanted to listen and learn about the Union and what it means to be a signatory Union Contractor.

WAGE & BENEFIT PACKAGE	
8/1/25 - 8/31/26	
WAGE & BENEFITS	
JOURNEYMAN HOURLY RATE	\$61.73
MEDICAL, DENTAL, VISION	\$9.36
PENSIONS	\$12.45
SUPERVISION RATES	
FOREMAN	\$70.78
GENERAL FOREMAN	\$76.81
APPRENTICE WAGES	
1ST YEAR APPRENTICE	\$28.19
2ND YEAR APPRENTICE	\$31.40
3RD YEAR APPRENTICE	\$37.53
4TH YEAR APPRENTICE	\$43.65
5TH YEAR APPRENTICE	\$49.77

**UA LOCAL UNION 582**  
PLUMBERS, STEAMFITTERS, WELDERS AND APPRENTICES  
1915 W. CHAPMAN AVENUE,  
ORANGE, CA 92668

## PIPE WELDERS WANTED!

Looking for Welders that are well skilled in TIG, MIG and STICK.  
**\$61.73/hr - \$67.56/hr**  
plus **MEDICAL BENEFITS** and **PENSION**.

**KIRK HALONEN** CELL: (657) 645-5601  
E-MAIL: KIRKH@UALOCAL582.ORG



**582 CHATS**  
Mental Health

WE'RE HERE FOR YOU

Brothers and sisters,  
In April we started a Local 582 mental support group. This is a safe space where our members can go to talk, listen or support one another when going through a tough time. Meetings are being held at Local 582 on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 4:30pm. If you are interested, please give me a call or join us at our next meeting. Let's take time to check on each other and if you see someone who may be going through a rough patch take the time to ask if they are okay. Just that small gesture could make a difference.  
Thanks,  
Adam

