Old Dominion’s Executive Chairman Receives Inaugural Diamond Legacy Award

ATA recognizes Earl Congdon Jr. for seven decades of exceptional industry contributions


The ATA surprised Congdon with the award during the company’s annual sales meeting in Orlando, Fla. The award honors icons in the trucking industry who have been instrumental in building their businesses and contributing to their communities.

Congdon’s legacy with Old Dominion stretches nearly to its beginning when his parents, Earl Sr. and Lillian Congdon, founded the company in 1934. He joined them as a driver at age 16. Almost seven decades later, he will transition to senior executive chairman of the board in May, following ten years as executive chairman of the board of Old Dominion, and 45 years as chief executive officer. His son, David Congdon, Old Dominion’s current CEO and vice chairman of the board will become executive chairman of the board in May.

“I’m truly humbled by this award,” said Congdon. “It’s particularly special coming from one of our industry champions. I’ve been privileged to witness the extraordinary strides our company has made to become one of the leading trucking and shipping companies in the world. Our remarkable growth has only been possible because of Old Dominion’s unwavering commitment to deliver premium service and the tireless dedication of our OD Family.”

Through his 69 years of experience with the company, Congdon helped transform Old Dominion from a small regional operation to an international, publicly-traded company through geographic and strategic acquisitions. Currently, Old Dominion employs more than 22,000 people and earns more than $3.3 billion in revenue.

“Earl comes from one of trucking’s great families. He grew his parents’ company, which began with one truck in 1934, into a billion-dollar, worldwide, world-class
carrier,” said Chris Spear, ATA president and CEO. “His story is trucking’s story. The strength of our industry draws from remarkable family-owned and family-run companies like Old Dominion, and none exemplify that culture like the Congdons do.”

Congdon’s industry expertise is a driving factor of the company’s success. He was at the forefront of anticipating the impact of industry deregulation in the 1980’s. Congdon led the company through a decade of upheaval from industry deregulation. Anticipating the hypercompetitive market that followed, Congdon reshaped Old Dominion’s operations to maximize efficiency and began its nationwide expansion, using its non-union cost advantages to pick-up market share despite the rapidly growing number of LTL competitors.

Congdon’s legacy extends beyond Old Dominion. He has been a champion for the trucking industry, as an initial member of Trucking Moves America Forward, an industry campaign to promote trucking’s economic impact and its essential role in America’s logistic network. Congdon has also worked to advance prosperity in North Carolina through strategic philanthropy at High Point University and New Hanover Regional Medical Center Foundation.

“He is a titan of trucking who has made an indelible mark on this great industry of ours,” said Dave Manning, ATA chairman. “He has paved the way for so many to follow his lead, and we could not be more proud and grateful for his service and commitment to the ATA family.”

For more information about Old Dominion, visit www.odfl.com or call (800) 432-6335. On Twitter and Instagram: @ODFL_Inc and Facebook: Old Dominion Freight Line Inc.

About Old Dominion Freight Line, Inc.

Old Dominion Freight Line, Inc. (NASDAQ: ODFL) is a leading, less-than-truckload (LTL) company providing premium service across North America and globally through strategic partnerships with international freight-forwarding services. OD’s 22,000 employees, 229 service centers across the U.S., and the LTL industry’s newest fleet of over 32,000 trailers and 8,000 tractors consistently rank as the industry leader in lowest claims ratio, best on-time delivery and highway safety. The company’s broad range of logistics services include ground and air expedited transportation, supply chain consulting, transportation management, truckload brokerage, container delivery and OD Household Services, a consumer service for household moving. For more than 83 years,
Old Dominion has been helping the world keep promises. To learn more about the company’s industry leadership, click here.

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