



# Clemleddy Construction

## Great-grandfather inspires business

by *M.H. Morrison*

**C**raig Smyth, owner and president of Clemleddy Construction ([www.clemleddy.com](http://www.clemleddy.com)), honored the most influential man in his life — his great-grandfather Clement Leddy — when he decided more than 20 years ago to start his own business.

His great-grandfather's unwavering sense of duty, honesty and morality forged a clear path for Smyth, who also credits others with helping him along the way. This includes the work ethic he learned while employed at Janalyn Carpenter Contractors, and the confidence he gained in the Army.

Smyth's first real construction job was while he was in the Army in Germany. After being discharged in 1977, he worked with Janalyn for five years on its framing crew.

He joined the ranks of the self-employed in 1986 and soon after relocated to Lakeville.

When he started as a house framer, Smyth felt a sense of accomplishment when he turned different sizes of lumber into a house frame. Over time, he needed more of a

challenge, so he transitioned his company in the early 1990s from framing subcontracting to general contracting.

While the company is primarily focused on building and designing new homes and remodeling projects, Clemleddy diversified into light commercial work as a means of maintaining long-term stability.

"Since I did not have any formal education, I learned it all the hard way," said Smyth. "It is not often that I have made the same mistake twice."

### Business quick facts: Clemleddy Construction

- **Owner:** Craig Smyth
- **Years in business:** 22
- **County of operation:** Wayne and Pike
- **Local association:** Wayne County Builders Association
- **Association involvement:** Past President of the Wayne County Builders Association
- **Company motto:** Built for Your Life



Clemleddy's successes are important to Smyth, but his greatest accomplishment is "being happily married for 29 years."

At the start of the business, his wife, Kathy, worked at Clemleddy, but as the company grew, they made a collective decision to live together and not work together. However, his daughter, Melissa, is a part-time receptionist, and his son, Ryan, is a construction manager.

This sense of family and a commitment to people has been "without a doubt the key to our success," said Smyth. In addition to family, there are men on his crews who have been working with the company for decades and office staff who have been on board for many years.

In addition to learning on the job, Smyth said that being involved with the state and local builders associations for close to 15 years has benefited him tremendously through the groups' resources and the representation they provide at the federal and state governmental level.

In September 2001, Smyth joined the Remodelers 20 group, which is made up of 12 to 15 remodelers from noncompeting markets, who share their business challenges and help each other find solutions.

Smyth is a past board member of the Lake Wallenpaupack Chamber of Commerce and was recently nominated to join the board of the Wayne Economic Development Corporation.

"I have always enjoyed building. Becoming a general contractor and integrating all the different facets of home building keeps it interesting. I also enjoy the people. This is a great way to earn a living," he summed up. ▲





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