



**For Immediate Release**

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**RJ Peterson of Tower Marine inducted into the  
Michigan Boating Industries Association Hall of Fame**

**Livonia, Mich., December 12, 2016** – RJ Peterson, a pillar in the boating industry and Saugatuck and Douglas communities, and owner of Tower Marine for 48 years has been inducted into the Michigan Boating Industries Association (MBIA) Hall of Fame for the year 2016. The presentation was made at the Recreational Boating Educational Conference (RBEC), held Dec. 8 in Lansing, Mich.

“Mr. Peterson’s lifetime commitment to the Saugatuck-Douglas community and the boating industry has been tireless with a single vision of enhancing the boating experience, benefiting the local economy and ensuring the future of the harbor,” said Terrie Hazekamp of Tower Marine who nominated RJ, who still works full-time at the marina at the age of 90.

Peterson built Tower Marine with his father in 1968 after coming from building all-steel river houseboats in Gary, IN. Earlier in his life, he worked in electrical engineering in the Navy and later went to Purdue to study engineering. He was appointed by the Governor as a special advisor to the Michigan Waterways Commission and has been an MBIA member for 20 years. Tower Marine is also a Certified Clean Marina.

“RJ is known in our industry for his passion for boating and for challenging the norm to make improvements,” said MBIA Executive Director Nicki Polan. “He cares about our industry and his community, and strives to make them both better through partnerships. He is known for his energy and drive that keep him more active than many half his age.”

MBIA is the official, state-wide marine industry association which serves as the voice for Michigan’s \$7.4 billion marine industry and the four million people who enjoy Michigan’s nearly one million registered boats. The MBIA is dedicated to the advancement, protection and promotion of boating across Michigan. The MBIA produces three association-owned boat shows, the Detroit Boat Show at Cobo Center, the Novi Boat Show in Novi, and the Metro Boat Show in Harrison Twp. The proceeds from these shows benefit boating in Michigan through MBIA programs and promotions. For more information about the MBIA, and a full list of MBIA Hall of Fame Recipients go to [www.mbia.org](http://www.mbia.org) or call 734.261.0123.