

The LICA Contractor

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Machines of Glory Star Has Deep Roots in the Industry

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Machines of Glory Star

has deep roots in the Industry...

**It's In My Blood;
It's My Life!**



By Greg Sitek

Machines of Glory star and New Jersey LICA member, John Caravella, has deep roots in the industry learning the trade from his father, grandfather and on-the-job experience. John was selected to appear on the Discovery Channel's *Machines of Glory*. Dressed in "LICA green" John and his crew the "Jersey Wreckers" competed in the first episode "Backhoe Brawl".

So put on your hard hats and fasten your seatbelts, because you have never

seen equipment and operators put to the test like this... until now! *Machines of Glory* is pound for pound the biggest, baddest heavy equipment competition show ever televised - ever!

Through unique and difficult challenges with heavy equipment, *Machines of Glory* gives teams of operators a stage to show their competitive nature, operation skills, and passion for what they do each and every day on the job.

Three crews of America's best operators go head to head in outrageous

challenges that put their skills to the test in three areas of ability – speed, skill and power – while operating massive machines including powerful excavators, speedy backhoes, agile skid steers, massive wheel loaders and nimble dozers.

The *Machines of Glory* mission is simple: The men and women who best operate their "machines", get the "glory". And by glory, we mean cold hard cash. But, more importantly for these operators – they get bragging rights and the knowledge that they are the best.



Backhoe Brawl! The three crews battle it out to find America's best operators -- bashing piñatas with backhoes, destroying fire hydrants with wheel loaders and pushing their skid steers to the limits in four challenges.

The series is hosted by Johnny Littlefield (ABC's "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition," Discovery's "Dude Room"). The episode featuring Caravella aired December 30th of 2012.

The *Backhoe Brawl!* had three crews battle it out to find America's best operators -- bashing piñatas with backhoes, destroying fire hydrants with wheel loaders and pushing their skid steers to the limits in four challenges. After each Jersey Wrecker win John would note it was done with "Jersey Style, Baby".

How did it happen?

Caravella received a phone call from a producer in L.A. who asked, "Do you got what it takes?" John said that he did and that he could "operate any machine they put me on and that I'm probably



Jimmy Caravella, John Santini, Johnny Littlefield and John Caravella.

It's In My Blood; It's My Life

Rooting for teammate!!



Cousin Joe jumping from skid steer



the best operator in the country.”

Caravella has been operating forever or as he puts it, “I’ve operating machines since a boy. I can’t remember not being on a machine.”

The producer asked Caravella if he could put a crew of three together and come to L.A. to tryout for a T.V. show for the Discovery Channel. While going through the interview process the producer told him that they were one out thousands that were being considered.

“I figured that we didn’t stand a chance so I hung up. Well days later she called back and said the Discovery wanted us so the made all the arrangements; sent us our airline tickets and the next I know we’re in LA shooting this program,” Caravella explained. The crew of three included John, his older brother Jimmy and cousin Joey.

Caravella Contractors

John, being no stranger to construction work, opened Caravalla Contractors Inc. “It’s in my blood. I grew up in the business because my father was a contractor and I worked for him. He did the same thing, worked for his father who was also a contractor. This all started in 1928 when my grandfather Jim Caravella came to this country from Sicily. “

John Caravella not only has the same work ethic and drive, he’s trying to push it even farther than his grandfather or father ever thought or dreamed. “I think we can do more,” John says. “All we have to do is work for it.”

The company has 10 employees and around 20 pieces of equipment. John explained, “We’re also in garbage and demolition so we have 600 dumpsters, 20 trucks, 4 excavators, lowboy trucks, dump trailers, service trucks and mechanics trucks and all the tools to get the job done!

Today Caravella Contractors Inc., remains a family-owned and operated business committed to providing its New Jersey customers with dedicated service in demolition, recycling



Joe in Cat loader knocking over fire hydrants

operations, site development and program management.

Caravella says, “We approach all projects with the experience and expertise to deliver operational plans and milestone schedules that are not only realistic, but effective and efficient as well. Our extensive assortment of equipment is always in optimal working conditioning, allowing us to begin work immediately upon authorization. Our combination of state-of-the-art equipment and the best field and office personnel, allows all projects to be brought to completion on time and on-budget. Caravella Contractors Inc. is dedicated to maintaining only the highest levels of job site safety and environmental compliance, resulting in lower costs, unmatched efficiency, and an excellent track record.”



Demolition

According to Caravella, his bloodline has been in demolition since the 80s when his father actually got into it out of expediency. “My dad was doing

residential work, remodeling and put up around six houses a year.”

The company separates the materials into their various categories and haul them to the proper EPA approved

It's In My Blood; It's My Life

recycling facility. Caravella feels that they have been doing it so long that they have developed an expertise and that they also have the equipment to handle the job.

John Caravella's "get it done" attitude permeates the whole operation. They have a serious fabrication and welding operation, which John likes to call his "Heavy Equipment Monster Garage." For example they recently took a 2007 Peterbilt tandem axle tractor and turned it into a tri-axle lowboy tractor. They also build many of their own attachments, like grapples.

LICA

Caravella's brother-in-law, Anthony Facchino is an associate member of New Jersey LICA and serves on the Board of Directors. He suggested to John that he might want to consider joining. Telling Anthony he had "rocks in his head" and he was too busy to join an association, but still agreed to meet Jerry Biuso, National LICA CEO, to explain more about the LICA.

"Jerry reviewed what the organization does, including the many state and national benefits of being a



Replica of twin towers for Columbus Day Parade with NYPD

member and he did such a good job of explaining the organization, I decided I had to find the time and joined right then and there," John said.

Caravella is a new member and is looking forward to attending local state meetings as well as participating in the national annual meetings. He seems to be very interested in taking advantage of the educational as well as the networking opportunities that the

organization offers. John sounded like he was excited about having joined and is looking forward to hosting the first meeting this spring.

The LICA family will follow John and his crew and wish him continued success on the *Machines of Glory*!

To view the episode John posted a 9-minute version of the episode on his FaceBook page, Caravella Demolition Contractors Inc. or John Caravella ▼



Left: Emergency Demo in Passiac, NJ - red track machine

TV news reporter Emergency demo in Elizabeth, NJ