The Allan Block Team is like any great team, it is made up of great team mates that raise the performance of all around them. Mr. Dave Pederson personifies the characteristics of a great team mate and his ability to makes us all better is without question. For his consistent dedication and support of the partnership with Allan Block we are honored to add Dave to the Allan Block Wall of Fame as a 2018 inductee.

Amcon Block and Precast, Inc. began in 1977 when company president, Dave Pederson, purchased Northwest Concrete Products. At the time, the company primarily operated only in the warm weather months, of which there are not many in St. Cloud, MN, and employed 10 people. With that as a starting point, Dave showed his business acumen and personal attention to all of the many details that it takes to run and build a great company. Amcon is short for American Concrete, and although the company really started its new chapter 201 years after the signing of the Declaration of Independence, many of the values enshrined in the document from our Founding Father’s were benchmarks in Dave’s approach to business.

Dave understood the value of new products for his company and was always keen to offer his team to help develop new products with Allan Block. Amcon boasts first product runs of many of the products that Allan Block has launched over the years, including AB Fence and AB Courtyard. Without great partners like Dave, Allan Block could not have kept pace with the demands of an ever-changing market place. Dave was part of the plane trip to Northern Quebec with Tom and Ralph Viola of Zappala Block, an experience and a story that will live on for many years to come. I am sure there have been few times that Dave laughed more than watching the look in Ralph’s eyes as the pilot circled a snow-covered runway, only to turn and announce that he wanted to make sure it was a runway and not just a snow-covered field.
Dave instilled many of the character traits that made him successful into both the sales and production sides of the business. In 1979 Dave and his wife took the next step and upgraded their entire plant with new Besser equipment. Stories from the early days on the production side of the business come from his early Besser representative, Kevin Curtis – now president of Besser, on how Dave paid attention to all the details and he was always looking for ways to make the best block in the most efficient manner. Kevin says that Dave always had a knack for hiring the right people, and one of his best moves was promoting Vic Funk to run his new plant. Vic has been one of the many foundation blocks of building Amcon into the company that it grew to be. Dave’s innovative structuring of production shifts and designing facilities to keep the plants running around the clock year-round set the standard for our industry years ahead of its time. Dave did not have far to reach for help on sales, bringing in his son John Pederson to run the sales arm of the business. John made the most of the opportunity opening up a sales network, that from St. Cloud grew to supply many of the major masonry, retaining wall, and concrete fence projects in the St. Paul/Minneapolis market. Many block companies have fallen by the wayside over the last 30 years in Minnesota and across North America, but during that time Amcon expanded by buying up other plants and acquiring their own aggregate source to position the company to become part of a bigger organization, Cemstone another great family company, servicing a good part of the upper Midwest.

From all of us at Allan Block we thank you for your loyalty, dedication, and hard work to make Amcon and Allan Block, Always Better.