

It is with great pleasure that I have the honor to announce the 2019 ITA Lifetime Achievement Awardee. The awardee has been a giant in our profession innovating since the early stages of his career as well as bringing the importance of the use of underground space to the attention of decision makers.

He had the chance of studying in two of the best universities of the world. He first graduated in Harvard, and then got his Ph.D. degree at the University of Illinois, where he had the chance of learning with some iconic professors of geotechnical engineering and tunneling, namely Ralph Peck, Don Deere and Ed Cording, among others. His Ph.D. thesis written more than 40 years ago set the basis for understanding how steel fiber reinforced shotcrete works.

With his prestige, he was able to attract the President of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations to the World Tunnel Congress in Istanbul. The guest of honor said in his opening speech: "These developments make Istanbul an ideal city to hold a meeting of the International Tunneling Association (ITA) which provides intellectual leadership in defining the role of infrastructures such as tunnels and underground space in creating a sustainable, safe and healthy city." He went on thanking the awardee "... for having fostered very strong and cooperative ties with the United Nations over the course of nearly two decades."

Probably all of you already know that our awardee is Harvey Parker. He was President of ITA, for the benefit of our Association.

Among the important projects for which Harvey has contributed, I would like to highlight one: The tunnel of the Alaskan Way in Seattle. Together with people like Ed Cording and Rick Lovat, he contributed to turn the project very successful after many problems in the beginning. The negligible settlement achieved is a demonstration of the correct concept that Marc Isambard Brunel wrote in his 1818 patent application for a tunnel shield: "... opening ... the ground in such a manner that no more earth shall be displaced than is to be filled by the shell or body of the tunnel". At least tonight Brunel is in peace knowing that his own bust will be in good hands.

Last but not least, I should mention that part of Harvey's success is due to the peace of mind that his beloved wife Karen brings to him. Karen is also an ITA Family member, having been to all WTCs that I have attended.

Harvey Parker, come on stage!