

# EDWARD L. WILKINSON INDUSTRY OF THE YEAR

## Lippert / Taylor Made



**OEM Division Leadership Team, GM Todd Vincent at far right.**



The Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce is proud to recognize Lippert and its Taylor Made brand as the 2026 Industry of the Year, honoring a company whose impact spans generations, industries, and continents, while remaining deeply rooted in the Gloversville community.

Lippert's story begins in 1956, when founder Larry Lippert launched a small metal fabrication shop in Alma, Michigan. What started as a modest operation producing galvanized roofing for manufactured housing has grown into a global manufacturing leader, now employing more than 12,500 team members across over 140 facilities worldwide. Through decades of innovation, strategic growth, and a commitment to diversification, Lippert has be-

come a key supplier in the RV, marine, and transportation industries.

At the heart of Lippert's continued success is a simple yet powerful philosophy: putting people first. Every decision is guided by a commitment to improving the lives of team members, customers, and the communities they serve. That mindset is clearly reflected in Gloversville, where Taylor Made, a Lippert brand, continues a legacy that began more than a century ago.



Founded in 1908 by Nelson A. Taylor, Taylor Made started as a canvas and awning shop right here in Gloversville. Over time, the company evolved alongside the recreational boating industry, pioneering innovations such as curved tempered glass windshields and setting new standards in marine manufacturing. Today, Taylor Made remains a global leader in customized marine components and boating accessories, supplying both OEM and aftermarket customers with products known for their quality, durability, and performance.

Despite becoming part of a Fortune 1000 company, the Gloversville facility has never lost sight of its roots. "We feel ownership of keeping the legacy of this business alive and well in the region," shared the leadership team. "We take pride in our history and feel a responsibility to continue building on it."

That pride is evident throughout the organization. With more than 300 team members locally, Lippert and Taylor Made are not only major employers, but also active community partners. Their team consistently steps up to support local initiatives, from hosting Bingo nights at the Fulton Center for seniors to organizing fundraisers for the SPCA, Haven of Hope, and the Ronald McDonald House. Employees volunteer their time, donate resources, and even adopt families during the holiday season through the Salvation Army. Each leader is encouraged to create opportunities for community impact, reinforcing the company's belief that business should be a force for good.

Internally, Lippert's "people-first" culture is more than a statement, it is a daily practice. Through leadership development programs and personalized growth plans, team members are supported both professionally and personally. Nearly 90 percent of employees participate in these programs, which focus on areas such as career development, health and wellness, financial stability, and community involvement. The company refers to its hiring approach as "Hiring Healthy," seeking individuals who are positive, growth-oriented, and committed to continuous improvement.

This investment in people extends beyond the workplace and into the future workforce. Lippert has been a strong partner in the Chamber's Business & Education Partnership initiatives, hosting student tours, participating in workforce events, and creating hands-on learning opportunities. One standout example is their welding training program, which provides high school students with 12 to 16 weeks of real-world experience alongside skilled professionals, helping to build a pipeline of future talent.

Innovation also remains a cornerstone of the company's success. Taylor Made continues to lead the marine industry with patented technologies such as the Erskine Hinge, the Vadney Clip, and their widely used slide-through window systems. Their commitment to American-made quality and lifetime product guarantees further sets them apart in a competitive global market.

Looking ahead, Lippert and Taylor Made are focused on continued growth, driven by strong leadership, new ideas, and an unwavering commitment to their people and community.

As they receive this well-deserved recognition, their message is clear: this achievement belongs to every team member, past and present, who has contributed to their success. With deep local roots and a global reach, Lippert and Taylor Made exemplify what it means to be an industry leader and a true community partner.

## LIPPERT / TAYLOR MADE BRAND