



ONE OF A KIND. ONE AT A TIME.

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## KEN CLINTON PRESIDENT

As president of Intrepid Powerboats, Ken Clinton is defined by a high-intensity, hands-on management style that is truly unique in the topmost echelon of the marine industry. An exploration of his early life and career reveals his trademark business approach.

Growing up in Danielson, Connecticut, Ken developed his competitive fire as an elite competitor in Judo. His determination, hard work, and skill yielded championships at the state, regional and national levels. He was only detoured from a path to representing the United States in the Olympics by a significant injury.

After high school, he followed his father into work as a machinist in Groton's shipbuilding industry, where the focus was submarine manufacturing for the U.S. Navy. Marrying young, he traveled to Tampa Bay during his winter honeymoon and immediately decided that this warm-weather location was the place to be.

Florida did not offer job opportunities in submarine manufacturing, so Ken set his sights on the area's boatbuilding industry. When one manager challenged whether Ken's experience with submarines merited a job building boats, he light-heartedly replied that he would simply reverse everything he learned to make submarines sink to make boats float. He was hired on the spot, and his career in the marine industry was launched.

The competitive fire which fueled Ken's winning ways in Judo during his youth characterized his career as a boatbuilder. His tireless work ethic and stubborn insistence on the highest levels of craftsmanship helped him to rise quickly in the industry.

Ken joined Intrepid in 1991. He started in assembly, then advanced through every level: Lead of Station One (where most of the boat is assembled), Line Supervisor, Plant Manager, Vice President of Manufacturing, and Chief Operating Officer, before being named company President in 2009.

In addition to deep experience with every aspect of boatbuilding, Ken also has cultivated trusted relationships with the boating enthusiasts who make up the Intrepid Nation. "When I interact with our customers, I'm committed to putting my opinions aside and listening," he said. "We learn so much by hearing about their real-world experience with our boats ... what works well, what challenges they've encountered, what features or enhancements might improve their experience on the water."

This relationship with owners has enabled Ken to become one of the most prolific boat designers in the industry, with Intrepid outstripping the competition in terms of introducing new models. Rather than being the typical company president who spends most of his time with executives and spreadsheets, Ken maintains close contact with customers, hears from boat show attendees across the country, and brings important insights and innovations back to the facilities where Intrepids are created ... one of a kind, one at a time.

When he's not leading the Intrepid team, Ken's on-the-go personality continues to shine during his free time, pursuing his passion for Harley Davidson motorcycles, sports cars, and travel.

