## Short Bio - Billy Colucci

Billy Colucci is a design engineer who creates recognition and championship awards to commemorate special moments in people's lives to businesses, youth sports leagues, government agencies, education institutions, and charity organizations ... Billy is the Executive Director of the Colucci Custom Awards which he founded in 2000. From concept to completion, all his work is done with a small staff of 19 employees in the small town of Irmo, South Carolina.

Billy believes that commemorating special moments in people's lives is the sole existence of his company. Rewarding and recognizing athletes and employees leads to greater team engagement, which increases retention of goals and helps create a more positive overall team environment and ultimately a better quality of life balance. Commemorating special moments helps increase focus on the positives in people's life, sending a clear message that what they're doing matters.

Before his launch as an entrepreneur, Billy was a national account executive for Kraft Foods for 22 years where held several positions: Production management, institutional food distribution, national account sales executive before retiring from Kraft. Upon his retirement from Kraft, he moved into a Vice President's role at Borden Dairy in their small format division for 5 years. Then a decision had to be made from continuing the corporate career or following his passion in custom championship jewelry design and awards ... the rest, you can say, is history!

Billy was raised on a farm in Summerville, South Carolina where he learned the value of hard work. He began working the Jewelry business when entering the 8<sup>th</sup> grade under the mentorship of his father Ivo Colucci. His father was a master jeweler and taught him the spirit of making custom jewelry and how to run a successful small business. Billy earned his undergraduate industrial engineering degree from Clemson University. He is a 2006 MBA Magna Cum Laude graduate in Leadership and international business from Michigan – Baker's College.

Outside of his entrepreneurship of his 3 businesses, He is the current President of BNi, Inc of the Midlands, Chairman of Board for the Optimist Club, Board of Directors for Operations Veteran Support, Board of Directors for District 5 Youth Sports, KeyNote speaker for HIS International, Board Member on HIS International, Board of Directors for Global Leadership International, Board of Deacon of Men's Ministry at Decided Church, and an Active Member of the Irmo Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Colucci is active in his community with a goal of helping transform and lift up the community where he resides. Billy enjoys practicing for triathlons, being an active member of his church, volunteering in the community, residing on the executive board of directors for the the Optimist Club of Irmo as well as executive board of Operation Veteran Support. Billy is a father of 6 children and 1 grandson. Outside of worshiping Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior, planning his next adventure with his beautiful wife Marti is his biggest joy in life!