## Father & Son Team: A&R'S Family Tradition Continues



Erick Amaya and Marvin Amaya. Father & son team at A&R Tarpaulins. A&R Tarpaulins, Inc. was founded as a family business over 40 years ago in the Boyle Heights area of the City of Los Angeles. Literally, A&R was a unity of two families: the Arringtons and the Weisbarts. The "A" in our name is for Aundra Arrington, and the "R" in our name is for Ralph Weisbart.

About a year and a half after its founding, Bud and Carmen Weisbart bought 1/3 interest in the company, subsequently purchasing Ralph's 1/3 of the company and then Aundra's 1/3 of the company.

During the past 13 years, Bud and Carmen's eldest son, Ken, has been involved in the business and is currently A&R's General Manager, and has recently became a shareholder in the company along with his younger brother, Chris Weisbart. So the family tradition continues here at A&R, but it goes further than just the ownership, as over the years not only have we created a sense of family among all of our A&R staff, but many of the company's staff have brought their children, brothers, sisters and uncles and aunts to work here with us. So in this A&R Newsletter I want to feature one of these relationships, that of Erick Amaya and his son Marvin.

Erick came to work with us as a 17year-old young man on August 17, 1981. He started by doing menial jobs such as helping with our custodial work and began to show interest in learning production, so he gradually learned to sew, heat seal, and eventually repair our equipment and work on installations of truck covers and the industrial curtains we provided for commercial customers.

As time went on, Erick began to lead other workers that were new to both providing fabric products and, most other workers that were new to both providing fabric products and, most importantly, to the culture we have created here at A&R which most importantly leads to our commitment to quality and continuous improvement. It was due to his dedication to live up to those standards, that Erick eventually became the Production Manager for A&R's commercial and industrial products. When we pursued, and eventually received, the international quality certification to meet ISO9001 standards, A&R made the commitment to do so for our entire organization, not just for our aerospace program, including the products we produce for our industrial and commercial, and more recently, architectural markets. So this is a unique accomplishment for our industry, for few, if any, other companies have received ISO certification to produce industrial. commercial and architectural fabric products. And this effort is under Erick's responsibility and management. In December, 2011, Erick's son, Marvin, joined the A&R family as well, continuing the legacy of A&R's family tradition, working in production and involved in our welding training program to become certified to manufacture the framework on which our commercial fabric canopies and awnings are attached. Marvin, just as his father, is also a member of our installation team, has learned to sew, and has become an integral part of the A&R family and team. This past August marked Erick's 35<sup>th</sup> year with our company, and despite looking only slightly older than the 17 year old kid who walked through the door in 1981, has been blessed to be a grandfather as well as the father of one of our up and coming leaders, his son Marvin.

## **Project Spotlight: Spacecraft Heat Shield**

As part of what we do here at A&R, we work on Aerospace projects that include heat shields for space craft. Our Project Spotlight features a heat shield product we've been awarded with honors for 5+ years.

The project is unique in that it takes up to 48 hours per piece to produce which translates into how delicate this crafting process is.

We use multiple layers of film placed on a composite ring by applying heat sealable tapes in a clean room. We produce about 15 of these a year. For more information about our products and services visit us at www.artarpaulins.com.









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