

40 UNDER 40

James Murphy

OWNER AND PRESIDENT

WILLMENG CONSTRUCTION INC.

WHY WE'RE WATCHING: Murphy joined Willmeng in 1999 and became its owner in 2006. Under his leadership, the company has deepened its Valley roots and won numerous industry awards. Murphy also is involved in myriad nonprofit organizations including Habitat for Humanity, West Valley Commercial Real Estate Group and AZ Builders Alliance.

Age: 39

What gets you out of bed in the morning: Family and faith are what life is all about. For me, family extends well beyond those with my last name; and my faith is what defines the priorities and makes the toils meaningful.

What keeps you up at night: Nothing. I have slept through a tornado, or close to it. If it makes for a better answer, I'll admit to a recurring dream in which I arrive late to class and unprepared for the test. I've had that dream off and on for the greater part of three decades.

Besides food and water, three things you'd want to have with you on a deserted island: My family, a Kierland villa and a Don Williams CD. If you've ever listened to a Don Williams song, you know the lyrics take you back to a slower time with simpler needs.

Where you'd most likely be on a Saturday: Anywhere outdoors. Hunting and fishing top the list, but there's also golf, ASU football, coaching, mountain-biking the trails behind my house and grilling with friends.

Your favorite Phoenix-area restaurant:

The Salt Cellar. It is a unique and long-standing Valley restaurant. It has been my go-to place for special celebrations for years. It is the benchmark for fresh seafood in town.

Your favorite mobile app: iSnipe. It helps me when I am enjoying some of those "outdoor" pastimes. Plus, now I don't have to worry about all of my handwritten index cards and laminated tables going through the wash.

I know it's a good day when: coffee starts and ends my day. When I leave the house in the morning with a cup of coffee, it's usually because my wife made it for me. And when coffee at 9 p.m. seems to make sense, then I know for certain I have done good work.

I am always fascinated by: the sky on a clear, moonless night. There's a peace and humility to be gained by seeing the night sky full of stars without intrusion from everything else.

Nothing annoys me more than: people who know everything about everything. I prefer to leave them alone so they can figure it out and agree or argue with themselves.

Nothing makes me happier than: Christmas morning. It goes back to life's meaning being rooted in family and faith.



ALTRUISTIC

"True altruism has to come from within a person's makeup; it is impulsive and consistent, driving all decisions for the project, clients and organization."