

with:

## Bob McNeese

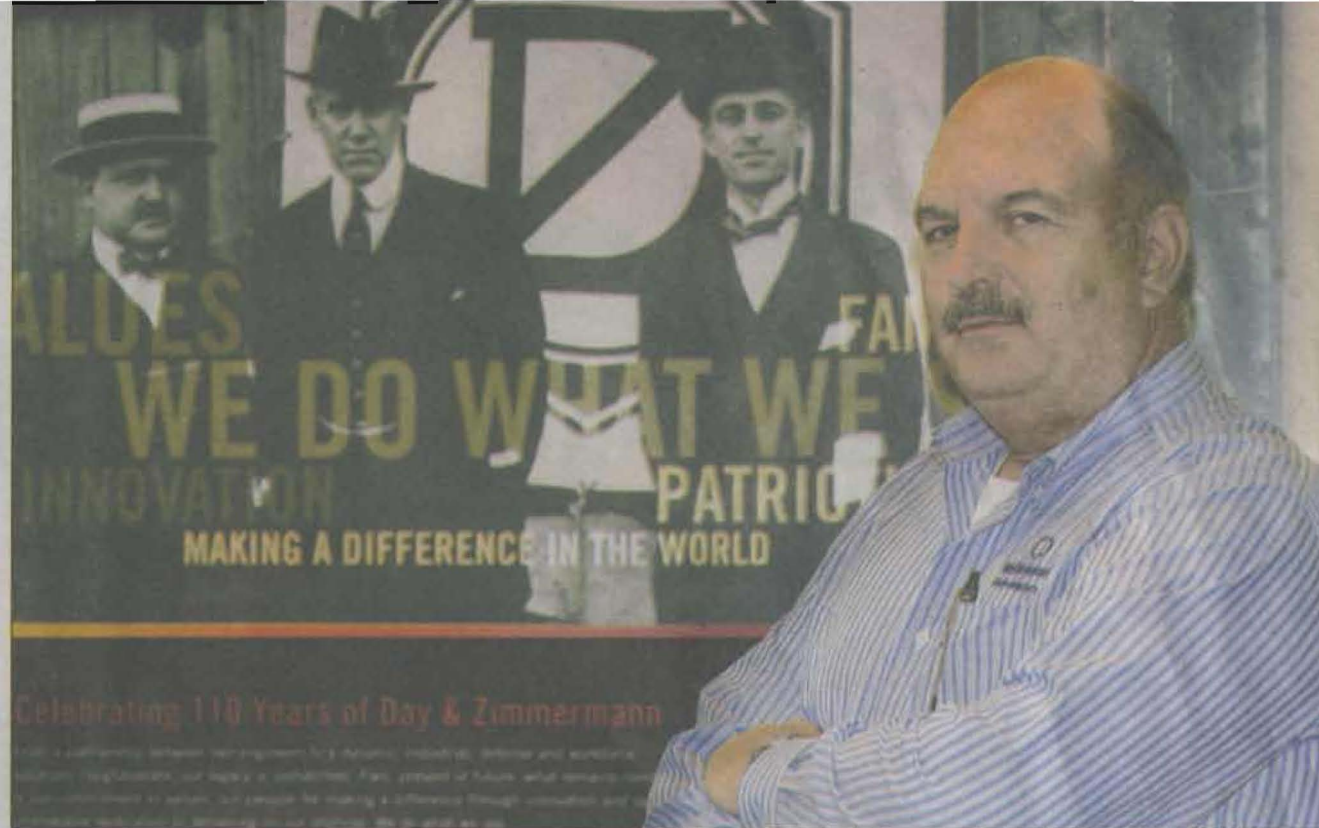
director of business development  
of DZ Atlantic's fabrication  
and machining facility

**Q:** Most locals know DZ Atlantic's Moss Point facility as "the new business in the old glove factory," but what are you doing there?

**McNeese:** We provide fabrication and machining services in the industrial arena. We build pipe spools, tanks and pressure vessels, which are used in various plants as part of their designed process equipment. Just imagine a very large pressure cooker. These vessels and piping are under heavy scrutiny from a variety of governing agencies that ensure that all safety and design criteria are met or exceeded. Our machine shop complements this process, as well as performs stand-alone machining services and contracts. Our customer list is lengthy and often confidential. However, it is well known we provide these services for Southern Company, Chevron, Ingalls, Northrop Grumman, Olin, DuPont, KBR and others.

**Q:** Describe your company investment at the Moss Point facility.

**McNeese:** Most residents can still visualize the area when it was an eyesore attracting undesirables and very depressing to see in general. DZ came in and built the new facility that you see here today. Some of the original structure and foundation that was built in 1933 has been incorporated into the new construction, so it truly is where old meets new. Our fabrication facility is about 140,000 square feet. Our office complex, machine shop and stainless shop make up another 40,000 square feet.



VICTOR CALHOUN/Gulf Coast Business

### The skinny on McNeese

- **Age:** 54
- **Hometown:** Hurley
- **First job:** Raised on a farm, then electrical helper for (then) Brown and Root during the construction of Plant Daniel
- **Favorite place for a business dinner:** Scranton's (I wish shrimp and grits were on the lunch menu.)
- **If I wasn't doing this, I'd be . . .** doing public relations for Shriners hospitals

**Q:** What is your current workforce?

**McNeese:** We employ about 80 craftsmen in a variety of trades revolving around fabrication and machining, such as fitters, welders and machinists. We are a long way from capacity, as our shop is designed to have up to 300 workers per shift. Our expansion efforts are constant. As for

skilled labor, this is an ongoing problem for all industries. We do not have 100 percent of the talent needed here locally, but, once again, this is a nationwide issue. We are very involved in several workforce development councils and have taken the opportunity to speak at local high schools and junior colleges.

**Q:** What's your outlook for your industry?

**McNeese:** The future looks very promising. We are presently in a situation where many of our customers have pushed their plants to the limits and must shut down for repairs. This has created stimulation for replacement parts and maintenance turn-arounds. This is a natural springboard for expansion and economic recovery.

**Q:** What is the history and reach of your parent company, Day and Zimmermann?

**McNeese:** Day & Zimmermann celebrated its 110th year anniversary in 2011 and is the 53rd - largest privately held family-owned business in the U.S. We have a munitions section that manufactures grenades and 40-caliber ammo for the U.S. Army, as well as an international security division. In the industrial sector, we are a major provider of construction, engineering, plant maintenance and staffing. Although there are many milestones in our history, my two personal favorites are the design of the Hershey's kiss foil-wrapping machine in 1914 and then setting the world record for hauling concrete during the construction of the Panama Canal in 1908.