



GRANT HELMS WINS "SUPER BOWL OF MASONRY!"



The North Carolina native Grant Helms (above left) takes home top honors at the SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500® World Championship, while Darian Douthit wins SPEC MIX TOP CRAFTSMAN® Award.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

LAS VEGAS, NV (1/21/26) – North Carolina mason Grant Helms made history at the SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500® World Championship by winning the 2026 SPEC MIX Bricklayer 500®. The duo of Grant and Keith laid 726 bricks in one hour to claim the title, “World’s Best Bricklayer,” and Grant is now the proud owner of a new 4x4 truck, an Essick Pro12 Mixer, a SpaceKap Diablo, along with additional prizes.

Marking the event’s 24th anniversary, SPEC MIX®, hosted the world’s largest and most prestigious masonry competition, the SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500®. This action-packed bricklaying battle took place on Wednesday, January 21st, 2026, at the World of Concrete expo in Las Vegas, NV.

For sixty-minutes, the Helms duo battled against 28 other masons and tenders from across North America, Great Britain, and Australia to lay as many bricks as they could with as few craftsmanship errors as possible. The champion team working together like a finely tuned machine, proved the competition is a true test of human skill, speed and stamina designed to determine the best craftsman in the masonry industry.

Grant won the JR. Bricklayer 500 event in 2021 and his journey to become this year’s SPEC MIX Bricklayer 500® champion has been incredible. Grant won the Wild Card slot in the competition by laying 774 bricks at the North Carolina regional. The Wild Card winner is chosen by selecting the bricklayer who laid the most brick at a regional event but did not win the competition. Helms will now leave Las Vegas as a bricklaying champion!

Wyandotte, OK, Darian Douthit, (pictured on the left), wins SPEC MIX TOP CRAFTSMAN® Award and a new Kubota RVT-X Cab utility vehicle.



The event's second most coveted award, the SPEC MIX TOP CRAFTSMAN®, went to Darian Douthit and mason tender Trapper Reeves who laid 511 bricks. Douthit won the Top Craftsman Award last year with the exact same brick count and he proved again this year that he laid it all on the line to win this award.

Second place was mason Phil Bachetti and mason tender Mike McCarrick laying 723 bricks, only three bricks difference from the championship team!

Third place was Luis Prado, and Francisco Campuzano Arellano with Brazos Masonry out of Waco, TX, 697.

The TOUGHEST TENDER® award went to Mike McCarrick, with Langeraap Masonry out of Spartan, NJ. His winning time was 14 minutes and 2 seconds. The TOUGHEST TENDER is a preliminary competition where the tenders are timed as they set up the workstations for the SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500®.

"We created this competition in 2003 to highlight the incredible skill and pride that bricklayers all over the world dedicate every day to the projects they build. Now it's the masonry industry's most celebrated annual event that gains more popularity each year and becomes the top recruiting tool for the next generation of skilled masons. We are thankful to have so many great sponsors and industry partners to help us highlight masonry as a solid, rewarding career choice," said SPEC MIX® Vice President, Brian Carney. While Brian Carney is no longer with us, he was honored at this year's event. Brian Carney believed that masonry was more than brick and mortar. It's about legacy, pride, passion, grit, and growth. This award shines a spotlight on those who make the industry better by embracing those values and sharing their journey.

If you have any further questions, or would like to set up an interview with any of the winning competitors, please contact Derek Bloch by email at derek.bloch@specmix.com.

SPEC MIX® is your national source for high quality, factory produced mortars and grouts that are preblended for the construction industry. SPEC MIX® products are precisely engineered to meet ASTM and building code requirements. Projects designed for the installation of brick, CMU, stone, stucco or building repair and restoration, SPEC MIX® offers a full line of products packaged in 80 and 3,000-pound bags produced with state-of-the-art batching equipment to ensure quality and consistency from start to finish. For optimal jobsite efficiency, safety, and productivity, we provide contractors with numerous silo material mixing systems that maximize a contractor's cost savings, safety, and profitability. For more information, visit www.specmix.com.

