



## 1st World Portable Sanitation Day (WPSD)

August 15th is a day long overdue. It is the first World Portable Sanitation Day, celebrating the benefits of our industry to humanity. When you think about it, this industry was late in coming to the party. By starting in the 1950's, portable sanitation completely missed the Industrial Revolution (1760-1840) and arrived a few short decades before the Information Age of the later 20th century.

Knowing what we do now, just imagine how much more enjoyable and safe it would have been to build the ancient pyramids if there were portable restrooms for every 10 workers? Each morning there would be fresh Sycamore leaves stacked in the corner, or better yet, paper made from papyrus leaves. It seems rather ironic that the ancients were building marvelous structures 4400 years before someone thought to build a simple wooden restroom that could be transported from job-site to job-site.

While it took a long time for this industry to develop, the benefits of portable sanitation to humanity are very apparent. For example, life expectancy in 1950 was around 46 years worldwide. By 2005 that number had dramatically increased to 68 years. Countries like the United States in 2014 are now as high as 80 years. The poorest regions of the world, however, still lag behind with the average life expectancy in South Africa closer to 51 years.

Much of the reason why poorer countries have less healthy populations is because water is contaminated by human waste entering into the water supplies. Efforts to help in regions suffering from contaminated water have been underway for many years. But, with the formation of World Portable Sanitation Day, portable restroom operators, suppliers of portable restroom equipment and the Portable Sanitation Association International (PSAI) are taking the first step to join this important effort.

Becoming an active participant in the effort to improve sanitation worldwide is the next logical step for the portable restroom industry to undertake. It is time to transfer the success of this industry in developed nations to those areas who are suffering from inadequate sanitation. This can be observed in countries like India, where international members of the PSAI are establishing portable restroom companies and teaching local inhabitants how using these restrooms can save lives.

In February, 2014 the industry was formally introduced to World Portable Sanitation Day at the annual Pumper and Cleaner trade show in Indianapolis, Indiana. There, speakers from the United States and India presented information about WPSD and how operators and suppliers can unite to help change the lives of those suffering from improper sanitation around the world.

Be part of this effort to improve worldwide sanitation by joining the EI Group within the PSAI. It is a group of operators, suppliers and staff of the PSAI working together to get the word out about the benefits of portable sanitation and how it can improve the lives of millions around the world.

