

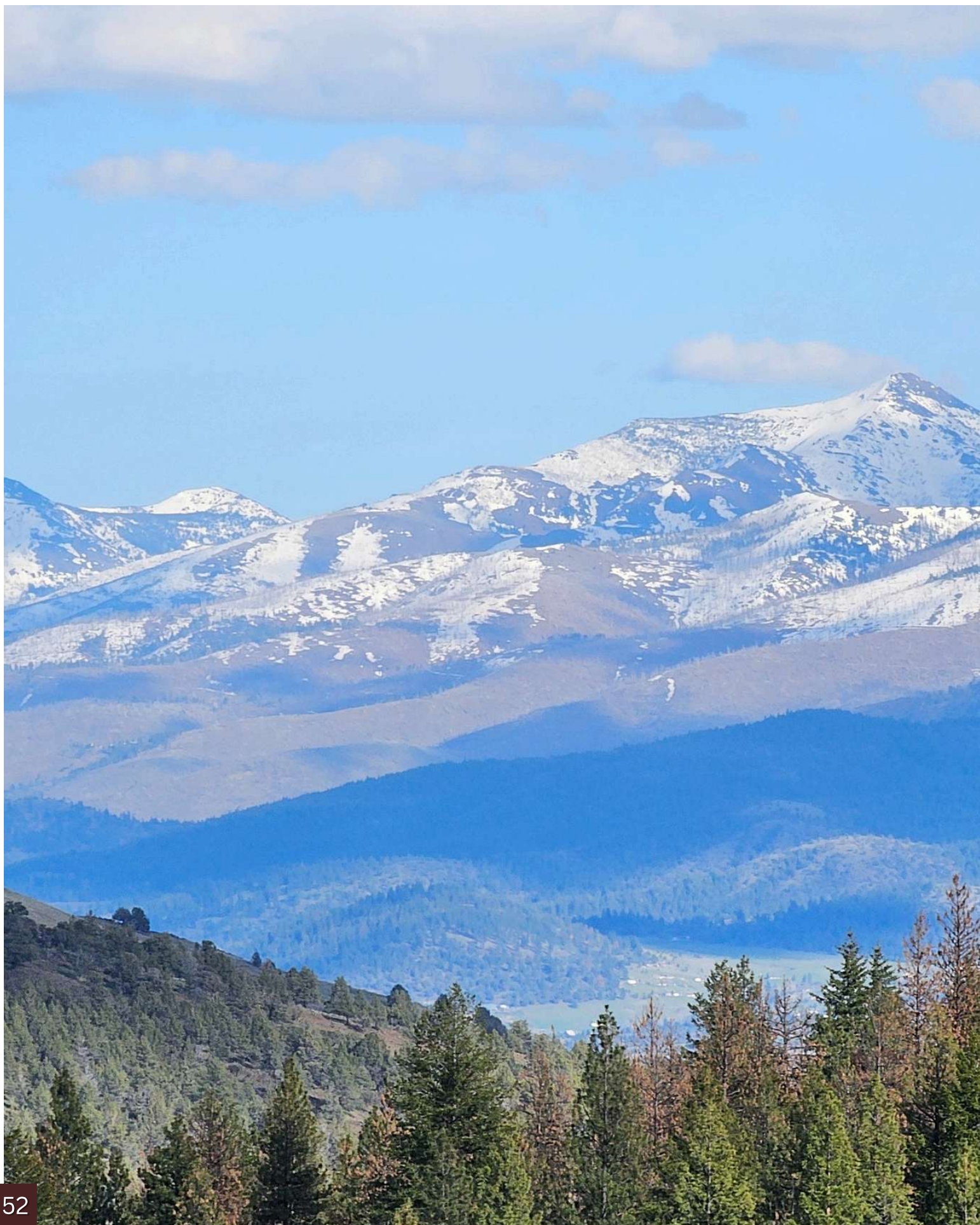
**SUPERIOR HOME BUILDERS
GENERAL CONTRACTORS**

Mt. Vernon, Oregon





Steered by Grace, Powered by Purpose



In the world of construction, you'll find plenty of talk about specs, square footage, and finishings. But for John Martin, founder of Superior Home Builders located in Mount Veron, Oregon, success isn't measured in profit margins or how fast a job is done. It's measured in people—how deeply he connects with them, how well he serves them, and whether he's left their lives better than he found them.

"I'm not the fastest. I'm not the cheapest," John says simply. "But we take our time, and we do what we say we're going to do."

That isn't just the foundation of his work ethic—it's the foundation of his life.

It All Started with a Moose

"The path that led to Superior Home Builders wasn't linear—it carved its way through logging with heavy equipment, government roadwork, global teaching adventures, and cross-country moves."

But if you ask John, it really started with a moose.

"I was praying a lot, asking God where I was supposed to be," he shares. "I no more than dropped off the pavement up near Kalispell, Montana, and when a big moose walked right in front of my truck. I just knew—I want to live here."

From that moment, John didn't just build houses—he started building a life rooted in faith, family, and fierce resilience.

“I didn’t know how to build a house. I figured if someone else could do it, so could I,” he says with a laugh. “I wasn’t too proud to ask questions.”

John’s first house—built by hand in the rugged chill of Montana—was off by an inch and a half on one end, and three-quarters of an inch on the other. “But we were warm. And nobody else knew but me,” he says with a grin.

Building Through Hardship

The early days weren’t glamorous. John, his wife, and their young son lived in their under-construction home, using an outhouse 80 feet from the front door until he could get plumbing in.

“We potty-trained our youngest in that outhouse,” he chuckles.

It wasn’t easy—but it was real.

After selling their Montana home in the dead of winter (a family from Arizona miraculously bought it with four feet of snow on the ground), the Martins packed their lives and moved to Michigan. Then, not long after, back to the mountains of eastern Oregon—closer to John’s aging parents.

“They need us now more than ever,” he says. “And I know I’m right where God wants me to be.”

That sense of purpose isn’t just personal—it flows into every home John builds.



More Than a Name

Superior Home Builders began with a conversation at the kitchen table. “We all sat down—me and my folks—and tried to think up a name,” John recalls. “I had just built our place and theirs, and I wanted to keep building homes.”

But for John, “superior” isn’t about boasting. It’s about intention.

“I wanted to build homes and make a difference in people’s lives,” he says. And that mission has guided him ever since.

His first job was a deck. That turned into two decks, then sidewalks, then a garage with a two-story addition. “At that time, I had my dad helping me and my oldest son, who was 13 and had to sit down and rest every couple of hours,” he says. “We worked through it.”

Now, more than two decades later, Superior Home Builders has handled projects ranging from custom homes to major government facilities, financial institutions and motels, each one infused with the same values John carried up a Montana mountainside.

What Sets Him Apart

In a profession where speed and scalability dominate the conversation, John offers something different — something increasingly rare. “I believe in doing one project at a time. I don’t start another job until the first one is finished—unless I’m waiting on subs or delayed materials,” he explains. “We follow the Golden Rule: treat people the way we’d want to be treated.”

His impact stretches far beyond blueprints and beams. “I’ve had clients who passed away, and their families asked me to conduct the funeral.



JOHN MARTIN | PRESIDENT

I officiated at one of our employees wedding” he says. “It’s not just building—it’s life.” That authenticity creates a bond that endures. “We get a lot of repeat customers. Word of mouth is everything in a small town,” John says. “Believe it or not, people still use the Yellow Pages up here.”

Standing Strong Through Fire and Ice

Two projects stand out in recent memory—both for the quality of the work and the courage it took to get through them.

The first was for retired fire chief Jim Klum and his wife Julie in Seneca, Oregon—a town known as the coldest spot in the continental U.S., where winter temperatures once dropped to 54 below zero.



John’s team had to race against the weather, adding two stories to a modest home and getting it fully enclosed before the snow arrived. “We got it buttoned up just in time,” he says. “And Jim’s whole family was able to spend Christmas there.”

The second project—just last year—was for a privately owned building leased to both state and federal government agencies. “It was a \$500,000 job, the biggest we’ve done,” John says.

And it came with unimaginable challenges.

Midway through the project, Oregon was struck by the worst wildfire season in state history. The road home was closed. The air quality was dangerous. John and his crew kept working through the smoke.



Then, fire threatened John's own home.

"I took two weeks off, got on my bulldozer, and cut fire lines around my parents' house and ours," he says. "We cut down over 100 trees. We hauled out food, freezers, everything. And by God's grace, the rain came. The fire didn't get us."

They lost two and a half weeks of build time—but still finished the project on schedule. "Deanne, the client, was patient. And the job got done," he says with quiet pride.

A Builder with a Shepherd's Heart

What John brings to his work can't be taught in a trade school or priced into a bid. It's the lived experience of someone who has been a laborer, a husband, a father, and now a leader.

His crew members aren't just employees—they're family. "One of my guys, 25 years old, just left to go into the medical field," John shares. "He's got several kids. The nursing home he works for is putting him through school. I'm proud of him."

And his subcontractors? He treats them like gold.

"I pay them as soon as I can. I split travel stipends with them. One of my plumbers said he's been in business over 20 years and never got paid for something he hadn't done yet," John says. "I've been an employee. I remember what it feels like."



Looking Ahead—With Gratitude

At 66, John isn't done yet. "In five years, I'll be 71. My wife keeps asking when I'm going to retire," he laughs.

"But I've got strength. I'd like to grow. Maybe take on a few more custom homes. Hire a couple more guys. We'll see where God leads."

The future may not be drawn in pencil just yet, but the foundation is solid. Built on faith. Built on compassion. Built on love for the craft and care for the people who benefit from it.

"Every January," John admits, "I find myself praying, 'Lord, are we going to have work this year?'"



“Living in a sparsely populated county is challenging, But God always provides.”

And that is the quiet miracle of Superior Home Builders: a business born from grit, steered by grace, and powered by purpose—one meaningful home at a time.

Written by
Skyler Grey
Editor in Chief
Built America Magazine

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