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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Marble Institute of America
**NATURAL STONE
FABRICATOR**
— Since 2009 —

Northstar Granite Tops, Maple Lake, Minnesota has earned the coveted designation of Marble Institute of America (MIA) Accredited Natural Stone Fabricator and may now use the official accreditation logo. Accredited Natural Stone Fabricators are primarily companies that work on residential projects such as kitchens and bathrooms. Northstar Granite Tops specializes in granite, marble, quartz, and other natural stones, fabricating and installing countertops for kitchens, baths and bars. They also fabricate fireplace and tub surrounds, as well as tabletops.

To become an Accredited Natural Stone Fabricator by the MIA, a company must have successfully completed three phases of application. Phase one was the completion of a lengthy application that required the applicant company to provide various documents and references which ensure that the company is in compliance with the 10 standards of accreditation as laid out by the MIA Accreditation Commission. Phase two required the company's agent to pass an intensive 200-question exam. The exam tested the applicant's knowledge and application of material usage, installation, fabrication, restoration, care and maintenance, administration, legal/contracts, and jobsite and shop safety. The third phase was a comprehensive site visit, which included a facility review, document review, and one or more installation site visits.

Garen Distelhorst, the Accreditation Manager at the MIA said, "Northstar Granite Tops is now able to proudly display the accreditation logo, which symbolizes that they are among the finest in the natural stone industry with respect to craftsmanship, safety, and business practices."

Currently, 23 Natural Stone Fabricators have achieved accreditation nationally, two coming from the State of Minnesota.

For over 60 years the Marble Institute of America has been the world's leading information resource and advocate for the natural dimension stone industry. MIA members include marble, granite, limestone, sandstone, and other natural stone producers and quarriers, fabricators, installers, distributors, and contractors around the world. The purpose of the MIA's accreditation program is to provide excellence in the natural stone industry and recognize companies demonstrating compliance with quality standards, so that the public values, has access to, and benefits from consistent, competent, and safe fabrication, installation and maintenance of natural stone.

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