



HR0391

LRB103 31737 LAW 60322 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate the Knapheide
4 Manufacturing Company, a family-owned and operated business
5 located in Quincy, on the occasion of its 175th anniversary;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, In 1848, German immigrant Herman Heinrich
8 Knapheide moved to Quincy and opened a wagon-making shop; he
9 spent 42 years at the helm of the business, perfecting his wood
10 and iron-constructed wagons and selling them to farmers,
11 miners, and pioneers; and

12 WHEREAS, In 1890, his son, Henry E. Knapheide, assumed
13 responsibility for the business as president, incorporating
14 the company in 1893 and taking the company to new heights; he
15 invested in steam-powered saws, drill presses, and a planning
16 machine; he also erected a three-story factory that optimized
17 the production process, allowed greater control in-house,
18 standardized the wagons, and enabled workers to mass-produce
19 parts; by the 1900s, the company's product lineup expanded to
20 include freight wagons, merchandise "trucks", dump carts, log
21 wagons, and a widened variety of farm wagons and "trucks"; and

22 WHEREAS, Under third generation owner Harold W. Knapheide,

1 the company evolved with the times as gasoline-powered
2 automobiles gained popularity and the need for wagons began to
3 decline steeply; the business installed its first wooden wagon
4 body on a Ford Model T chassis in 1910 and would continue to do
5 so through the 1920s; the company was further impacted by the
6 1929 Stock Market Crash and the Great Depression, causing
7 sales to dip to \$14,083.65 in 1932; to keep afloat, the
8 business accepted more repair work and sold equipment,
9 including straw spreaders, dump bodies, washing machines, and
10 parts; the company was renamed the Knapheide Manufacturing
11 Company in 1937; and

12 WHEREAS, Harold W. "Bud" Knapheide Jr. joined his father
13 in the business in 1938; as a self-taught engineer, he
14 expanded and modernized manufacturing operations; by the
15 mid-1940s, he had developed and produced all steel-frame truck
16 bodies, and his innovative product line was targeted to the
17 agricultural market through an expanded distribution network;
18 in 1954, he opened a facility in West Quincy, Missouri to
19 increase Knapheide's manufacturing and production capacity; by
20 1960, nearly every farmer in the Midwest knew the Knapheide
21 name and the farming boom in the 1970s saw an even bigger
22 increase in demand for truck bodies; during this time, the
23 company was the largest producer of farm truck bodies in the
24 country; and

1 WHEREAS, Harold W. "Knap" Knapheide, the fifth generation
2 owner, was tested early in his career; despite success through
3 the company's all-steel agricultural product line, including
4 grain bodies and livestock racks, the West Quincy facility was
5 flooded by the nearby Mississippi River in 1973, proving quite
6 costly; the business persisted through temporary facilities in
7 Quincy, until total production was restored some 90 days later
8 at the original location; Knap was made president in 1978, and
9 he was noted for pioneering both targeted and creative
10 marketing initiatives that led the company to great success;
11 he was further tested when the agriculture market crashed in
12 the 1980s, and then again when the West Quincy facility
13 flooded a second time in 1993; despite these setbacks, Knap
14 made a decision that had a profound impact on the company's
15 future, constructing a new 480,000 square feet, state of the
16 art truck manufacturing facility; since moving to the new
17 facility, the business has continued to improve their customer
18 service, manufacturing processes, design technology, team
19 building, distribution networks, and product lines; and

20 WHEREAS, Harold W. "Bo" Knapheide IV, the sixth generation
21 owner, took over Knapheide in 2018 with a focus on continued
22 growth, expansion, and new markets; that same year, the
23 company opened an additional manufacturing facility, dedicated
24 to aluminum body production, just south of the company's
25 headquarters; during his tenure, he has been instrumental in

1 diversifying product offerings, including the Industrial
2 Products line, while also encouraging the importance of
3 customization; and

4 WHEREAS, Since 1848, Knapheide has provided customers with
5 high quality, work-ready transportation solutions through
6 determination, innovation, and family values, setting them
7 apart as the industry leader; today, the company is North
8 America's most popular manufacturer of work truck bodies and
9 truck beds, with more work trucks on the road today with
10 "Knapheide" stamped on them than any other manufacturer;
11 therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
13 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
14 we congratulate the Knapheide Manufacturing Company on the
15 occasion of its 175th anniversary, and we wish the company
16 continued success in the years to come; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
18 presented to the President and CEO Harold W. "Bo" Knapheide IV
19 of Knapheide Manufacturing Company as an expression of our
20 esteem and respect.