



SR0335

LRB103 32733 LAW 62518 r

1

SENATE RESOLUTION

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

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

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

21           WHEREAS, Under third generation owner Harold W. Knapheide,  
22 the company evolved with the times as gasoline-powered

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

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

24 WHEREAS, Harold W. "Knap" Knapheide, the fifth generation

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

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

1 Products line, while also encouraging the importance of  
2 customization; and

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

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

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