

eight locations nationwide. The company became 100-percent employee owned in January 2008.

One of the unique characteristics of Carris Reels is the company's steering committee, which goes beyond the basic functions of most ESOP committees and takes responsibility for allocations of benefits, quality of work-life issues, communications, training, and governance. Made up of both management and corporate employees, the Committee keeps alive the vision of former owner Bill Carris who moved the company toward employee ownership in 1995. Bill has said that organizations consist of three dimensions: spiritual, emotional, and physical. The strong business his family built and the employees now own is proof positive that these dimensions will remain a legacy at Carris Reels.

Carris Reels also is a strong supporter of the Vermont Employee Ownership Center, VEOC, a statewide non-profit organization founded in 2001 to provide information and resources to owners interested in selling their business to their employees, employee groups interested in purchasing a business, and entrepreneurs who wish to start up a company with broadly shared ownership. To date, the VEOC has given direct assistance to over 60 Vermont businesses, employing over 1,700 Vermonters. I applaud the VEOC for holding its Sixth Annual Employee Ownership Conference in Burlington later this week.

Once again, I congratulate all of the employees at Carris Reels for this well-deserved recognition. They make great reels; they do business well; and they treat their employees right—all of these accomplishments, I believe, are related.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a copy of an article about the award from the June 2, 2008, Rutland Herald be printed in the RECORD so that all Senators can read about the success and admirable business practices of this visionary Vermont company.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Rutland Herald, June 2, 2008]
CARRIS REELS WINS 'COMPANY OF YEAR'
AWARD

(By Bruce Edwards)

Carris Reels will occupy a special place at this week's sixth annual Vermont Employee Ownership Conference in Burlington.

The Rutland-based company was recently presented with the national 2008 ESOP Company of the Year award by the ESOP Association—the national trade association for companies with employee stock ownership plans.

"Carris Reels is an example of the value and potential that employee ownership can bring to (a) company," J. Michael Keeling, president of The ESOP Association, said in a statement. "The employee owners of Carris Reels strive to make their company stronger each day and it shows in the work they do and in the value they place on the individuals who make up their company."

Founded in 1951 by Henry Carris, the company manufactures a line of reels for the

wire, cable and rope industries. The 100-percent employee-owned company has 550 workers at eight locations around the country.

According to Don Jamison of the Vermont Employee Ownership Center, the state has the highest number of employee-owned companies per capita in the country. Jamison said there are approximately 10,000 ESOPs in the country, with 30 such companies in Vermont and another 10 companies that are workers co-operatives.

Jamison said one important benefit of an employee-owned company is that it ensures the company stays local. "If an owner is exiting (selling) and is concerned about his or her employees, it can ensure that the company will continue as it has been, provided there is a new group of managers to take over responsibilities."

He said employee-owned companies also give a direct stake to employees who reap the profits when the company performs well. "With a combination of participation and ownership, you see a pretty significant boost in productivity gains," Jamison said.

He also said there are tax advantages for an owner who sells their company to employees with the potential of getting a rollover in the capital gains tax.

As an example of the productivity gains that are realized with an ESOP, Jamison said two recent winners of the Deane C. Davis Outstanding Vermont Business Award, Resource Systems Group and King Arthur Flour Co., are both majority-owned by their employees.

Jamison said while setting up an ESOP is a complex process, it can be well worth the effort in the long run for the company, its employees and the owner.

One of the conference's workshops this week is based on a Carris Reels initiative called "Inclusive Decision-Making."

"They're really trying very hard to make their company 100 percent employee governed," Jamison said.

According to the national ESOP Association, a unique component of Carris Reels is its steering committee which goes beyond most ESOP committees and assumes decision-making for a number of functions including: allocation of benefits, quality of work-life issues, communications, training and governance. The committee meets twice a year to review financial information and receives operational updates from the various departments.

The Carris committee is made up of management and employees who serve three-year terms. In addition, the ESOP Association points out that the committee keeps alive the vision of Bill Carris, the son of founder Henry Carris, who moved the company toward employee ownership in 1995. Bill Carris' long-term plan is that "organizations consist of three dimensions: spiritual, emotional, and physical."

The keynote speaker at the Vermont conference at Champlain College is Veda Clark, CEO of Lite Control, an ESOP-owned company in Massachusetts that is known for its employee participation programs.

The conference agenda also includes the following workshops:

Social responsibility and the employee-ownership movement, How to successfully lead an employee-owned company, Balancing short- and long-term rewards in companies with an ESOP, How to leverage employee ownership as a marketing tool, Structuring an employee-owned company for inclusive decision-making, The differences between ESOPs and worker co-operatives and which is best suited for their company, The basics of financing an ESOP; and the keys to business valuation, How to manage an established ESOP, Coping with growth in worker cooperatives, Long-term ESOP sustain-

ability; and renewing the spirit of employee ownership.

For more information, visit www.veoc.org; e-mail info@veoc.org; or call 861-6611.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RETIREMENT OF THOMAS E. BARTON

• Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, today I ask the Senate to join me in recognizing Dr. Thomas E. Barton on the occasion of his retirement as president of Greenville Technical College.

Dr. Barton graduated from Clemson University in 1953 with a bachelor of science degree and received his doctorate in higher education administration from Duke University in 1972. While at Clemson, Dr. Barton played football under legendary coach Frank Howard. In 1987, he was honored for his athletic achievements by being elected to both the South Carolina Athletic Hall of Fame and the Clemson University Athletic Hall of Fame.

After 9 years of service in the public schools of South Carolina and Georgia as teacher, coach, and school superintendent, he became president of Greenville Technical College in 1962. When Dr. Barton began his term as president, Greenville Tech consisted of one building serving 800 students. Forty-six years later, the college boasts a 42-building, four-campus system, offering university transfer and technical programs to more than 60,000 students annually.

Dr. Barton was named Business Person of the Year by Greenville Magazine in 1995, and has consistently been chosen as one of the 50 most influential residents of Greenville by the publication. He was also named one of the top 25 community leaders by the Greenville News in 2000, 2001, and 2002. He has been awarded honorary doctorate degrees from Winthrop University, the University of South Carolina, and Clemson University. In January 2003, he was presented with the Order of the Palmetto, the State's highest award for a civilian.

A leader in community affairs, Barton has served on the governing boards of the Greater Greenville Chamber of Commerce, the Historic Greenville Foundation, and the YMCA. He is a commissioner for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and has chaired the board of directors of the Donaldson Air Force Base Museum and the South Carolina Technical College Presidents' Council. He has served on the Executive Committee for Friends of the Greenville Hospital System, on the Governor's Task Force on Education in South Carolina, and as honorary chairman of the March of Dimes Team Walk for Greenville. He is also an active member of the Greenville Rotary Club.

Dr. Barton has served his State and his community well as an educator and civic leader. I wish him the very best in

his retirement and ask that the U.S. Senate join me in thanking Dr. Barton for his lifelong career of service.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I wish today to recognize the 125th anniversary of the founding of one of South Dakota's great cities, Pierre. Pierre is the capital of the State, and the county seat of Hughes County. Pierre boasts a robust economy and exceptional quality of life, and things are only getting better for this dynamic city.

Pierre was founded in July of 1878, preceding the arrival of the Chicago and North Western Railroads 2 years later. Taking its name from the French fur trader, Pierre Chouteau, Pierre was designated the State capital in 1889. Pierre's citizens are justly proud of their city's history, and they have undertaken numerous successful projects designed to preserve and celebrate this heritage.

Today, Pierre is the major trade center of central South Dakota and enjoys an economy mixed with government, agriculture, and plenty of good hunting and fishing with nearby Oahe Dam. The Capital's many attractions include the Capitol Building, built in 1910, and the Fighting Stallions, World War II, Korean, and Vietnam Memorials.

The 125th anniversary celebrations are to be held June 18-22, and include the 19th Annual Dakota Duck Derby, parade, fireworks, watermelon eating contest, and antique car show. The Anniversary Gala will bring together the current and past mayors of Pierre to reminisce and appreciate the history of the South Dakota capital.

Pierre combines the warmth and friendliness of a small town with the vibrancy associated with larger communities. I am pleased to recognize the achievements of Pierre and to offer my congratulations to the residents of the city on this historic milestone.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF ONIDA, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to the 125th anniversary of the founding of the city of Onida, SD. As the county seat of Sully County, this vibrant, progressive community has been a center of commercial and civic activity since its inception.

The site which Onida is built on was chosen by Charles Agar, Charles Holmes, and Frank Brigham of Oneida NY. Within a month of raising the single place of lodging in Onida for land-seekers, the city gained a grocer, hardware store, and post office. When declared the seat of Sully County, a courthouse, permanent hotel, multiple grocers, and a bank were soon to follow.

Today, Onida is a prime example of the natural beauty and recreation in

South Dakota that follows the Louis and Clark Trail up the Missouri River. Its business sector encompasses a wide variety of trades from agriculture, automotive, finance, and tourist amenities. Hunting and fishing are significant draws of the area, and support many local resorts based on such recreational activity.

Onida will be celebrating its quasiquicentennial during the Oahe Days in early August. Even 125 years after its founding, Onida continues to be a vital community and a great asset to South Dakota. I am proud to publicly honor Onida on this memorable occasion. The citizens of Onida are continuing to live up to their motto: miles and miles of sunflower smiles.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROSCOE, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the community of Roscoe, SD, on reaching the 125th anniversary of its founding. Located in Edmunds County, Roscoe is a rural community infused with hospitality, beauty, and an exceptional quality of life.

Having come far since Sam Basford and Charles Purchase Morgan used a tent as a hotel in April 1883, Roscoe was named after Charles Morgan's good friend Roscoe Conkling. The combination of Basford, Morgan, Engle, and Elliot's land toward the creation of Roscoe led to its importance as a transportation center in 1886 for the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad. From the boom of migration westward, Roscoe persevered and prospered through life's trials in the great frontier.

Today, Roscoe is still a thriving community. There are upwards of 30 active businesses operating in Roscoe, including one of the largest honeybee farms in the Nation, two farm equipment dealerships, seed dealerships, and a post. Roscoe's school is still running, and the town boasts several churches and a public library.

The people of Roscoe celebrated this momentous occasion on the weekend of July 4-6. A parade, car show, and local entertainment kick off the celebration, with picnics, art, and games in the beautiful city park. One hundred and twenty five years after its founding, Roscoe remains a vital community and a great asset to the wonderful State of South Dakota. I am proud to honor Roscoe on this historic milestone.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF GETTYSBURG, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the city of Gettysburg, SD, and to recognize the 125th anniversary of its founding. Situated in Potter County, Gettysburg's history and success is a testament to the great State of South Dakota.

Gettysburg was settled in 1883 by 200 Civil War veterans, thus sharing its

name with the historical Pennsylvania battle. In fact, many street, township, and community names in Potter County mimic Civil War history. The Chicago and Northwestern Railroads were a significant boost to the Gettysburg economy, and promoted a thriving agricultural and economic community. Gettysburg even boasts of the first swimming pool in the State of South Dakota being nearby.

The 125th anniversary celebration will be held June 27-29, kicking off with an all class reunion. The festivities include a parade, ping-pong ball drop, antique car show, and banquet. For activities outside the celebration weekend, the Gettysburg Country Club's fantastic golf course and Dakota Sunset Museum are a testament to the city's progressive nostalgia.

Mr. President, it has been my honor to represent the citizens of Gettysburg as a Member of Congress since 1986. I am proud to publicly recognize Gettysburg and congratulate the community on this achievement. As the people of Gettysburg take this opportunity to appreciate how far the city has come from its beginnings, I know they will understand the important role Gettysburg plays in making South Dakota the great State that it is.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF HOVEN, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to the 125th anniversary of the founding of the community of Hoven, SD. After 125 years, this progressive community in the Blue Blanket Valley will have a chance to reflect on its past and future, and I congratulate the people of Hoven for all that they have accomplished.

Dating back to the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, the establishment of the Dakota Territory in 1861, and the Homestead Act of 1862, Hoven is located in Potter County of northeast South Dakota. Settled in 1883 east of Swan Lake, the enterprising prairie town boasted two general stores, a bank, a newspaper, a jewelry store, and two saloons to name only a few businesses. The grand "Cathedral of the Prairies" has graced the skyline of Hoven since its completion in the early 20th century.

The quasiquicentennial festivities over the Fourth of July weekend commence at twilight with a fireworks display. Additionally, the celebration will include a 5K, softball and golf tournaments, a parade, and a "Missed" Hoven Pageant, for any males desiring to compete for a pageant crown.

Known today as the "little town with the big church," Hoven has grown into a credit to the State of South Dakota with its business prosperity. The people of Hoven will celebrate their achievements July 4-6. I am proud to join with the community members of Hoven in celebrating the last 125 years and looking forward to a promising future.●