

City of Michigan City

Indiana



Proclamation

- WHEREAS:** George Kopta's first day of work for Fiber Bond Corporation was June 30, 1960 at the young age of 19. George's first job at Fiber Bond was as a Line Supply employee. George is quick to tell people his starting pay was a whopping \$1.75 per hour. At that time, Fiber Bond was located in Chicago. George was one of a half dozen employees who moved to Michigan City in 1978, the year the company relocated to its current location at 110 Menke Road. George has made his home in Michigan City ever since; and
- WHEREAS:** George has been involved in the launch of dozens of new products over his 50-year career, including a number of innovations still recognized today in the Air Filtration Industry. George helped Fiber Bond launch the industry's first tackified media in 1966. Tackifiers improve air filter performance by holding trapped dust in the media; and
- WHEREAS:** The next major breakthrough was the development of the industry's first high-performance synthetic air filtration media sold under the trade name Dustlok®. This innovation combined two new concepts: a dual-ply media and an adhesive throughout the entire layer of media to absorb and lock in dust particles; and
- WHEREAS:** 1983 marked the introduction of welded, stitch-less pockets for multi-wedge filters which bridged a gap between bag and rigid box filters. This innovation featured new media designs with new, unique sealing methods; and
- WHEREAS:** The fourth major innovation that George helped Fiber Bond launch was the use of antimicrobials in air filters. In 1987, Fiber Bond Incorporated Spor-Ax® antimicrobial into the binders that hold filter media together in order to control the growth of mold, mildew, and fungi on filters and filter media; and
- WHEREAS:** George development successes continued in the 90's. He helped the company launch the industry's first synthetic filter to be rated as Class 1 by Underwriters' Laboratories as well as the first self-supporting pleat product that functioned without wire backing; and
- WHEREAS:** George continues to drive Fiber Bond's efforts to develop air filter solutions for the HVAC industry. Today he is focused on helping the company launch products that are more efficient in capturing finer dust, that last longer and that allow HVAC systems to consume less energy; and
- WHEREAS:** As if 50 years of employment at a single company isn't remarkable enough, George plans to continue in his position as the company's Filter Product Development Manager, albeit on a slightly less than full-time basis. He and Mickie, his wife of 17 years, plan to continue to reside here in Michigan City where George can enjoy both of his life's passions, leading advances in air filtration products and his daily visits to his favorite slot machines at the Blue Chip Casino.

NOW, THEREFORE, I MAYOR CHARLES E. OBERLIE do hereby declare June 30th as a day of recognition for:

George Kopta Celebrates 50 Years with Fiber Bond Corporation

Furthermore: I call upon all citizens to join me in congratulating Mr. Kopta for his dedicated commitment to service and to our community.

DATED THIS 30TH DAY OF JUNE, 2010



Handwritten signature of Charles E. Oberlie in black ink.

Charles E. Oberlie, Mayor

ATTEST:

Handwritten signature of Thomas F. Fedder in black ink.

Thomas F. Fedder, City Clerk