

Proclamation

Whereas, Meckfessel Tire & Auto has thrived for 90 years due to the efforts of three generations of the Meckfessel family, their employees, and the support of the community it serves; and

Whereas, in March of 1927, Henry "Mack" Meckfessel partnered with John Pintar, owner of Pintar Tire in Collinsville, Illinois, to open Pintar Tire at 1214 West Main Street in Belleville, Illinois. Later that year, Mack Meckfessel married Emily "Millie" Batha; and

Whereas, after a year in business, Mack Meckfessel bought out the business from John Pintar and renamed the business Meckfessel Tire Company; and

Whereas, Mack Meckfessel relocated to 415 West Main Street in Belleville. Mack and Emily Meckfessel, along with their two children, Jeanette and William, lived in an apartment above the business. Today, that building still remains as part of the current Belleville facility; and

Whereas, toward the end of the depression, Mack Meckfessel took a chance and purchased tire recapping equipment and became the first recap shop in the area. During World War II, the recap shop ran 24/7, as new tires were rationed by the government and recaps became the only option; and

Whereas, in the early 1960's, William (Bill) Meckfessel moved back to Belleville after graduating from Eastern Illinois University to work with Mack at Meckfessel Tire Company. In 1963, Bill Meckfessel married Jean Ruser. In 1965, they started a family and took over running Meckfessel Tire Company; and

Whereas, from 1972-1987, Bill Meckfessel operated Mac's Tire Shack in Springfield, Illinois; a small independent tire outlet that offered competitive pricing and great customer service like Belleville; and

Whereas, through the 1980's and 1990's, Bill Meckfessel's children worked at Meckfessel Tire Company and learned the business before graduating from college; and

Whereas, Bill and Jean Meckfessel have four children: Mark, Kurt, Kent and Mandy. Mark, Kent and Mandy carried on the family tradition and are currently involved in the operation of Meckfessel Tire & Auto, bringing an array of experience and a different perspective of the tire and auto industry; and

Whereas, in June 2006, the third generation of the Meckfessel family opened the Smithton location; and

*NOW THEREFORE, I, Mark W. Eckert, Mayor of the City of Belleville, Illinois, do hereby recognize and congratulate **Meckfessel Tire & Auto** for 90 years of uninterrupted service to Belleville, providing quality and value combined with conscientious service to their customers.*

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and cause the corporate seal of the City of Belleville to be affixed this 20th day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand and seventeen.

Mark W. Eckert

Mark W. Eckert, Mayor
Dated this 20th day of March, 2017

