



Proclamation

WHEREAS, in 1923, T.J. Gundlach Machine Company was initially founded by Theodore Jacob Gundlach as a maintenance repair shop to service mines, foundries, and grain mills on East Main Street in Belleville, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, in the 1930s, the T.J. Gundlach Machine shop was known as one of the most modern welding shops in the surrounding territory and established an enviable reputation by their quality of workmanship and fair charges; and

WHEREAS, T.J. Gundlach acquired a firm servicing the coal industry manufacturing and repairing equipment, requiring frequent travel to mines for repairs, where he observed the inefficiency of existing crushing equipment. Inspired, T.J. conceptualized the first three-dimensional crusher, known as the "pocket tooth," resembling a waffle iron on a circular roll. Invented in 1948, this single-stage, two-roll crusher transformed coal into 19mm cubes to avoid jamming, astonishing coal operators with its precision and efficacy; and

WHEREAS, T.J. Gundlach quickly improved his innovative and maintenance-friendly design, then mounted it on a truck and took a tour of the Pennsylvania and West Virginia coal fields showcasing its capability of crushing a railroad carload of coal in six minutes, 525 tons an hour for a full day, or averaging 425 tons an hour to the amazement of all; and

WHEREAS, Gundlach Crushers has held the "World's Largest" crusher title three times, with a fourth stopping short at the manufacturing stage – In 1958, their largest crusher could produce 300 tons per hour, in 1968, another could reduce four-foot cubes of gypsum to six-inch fragments at a rate of 1500 tons per hour, and the third, assembled in 1970, had a capacity of 3000 tons per hour, the final "Largest," named "Big Joe" in 2004, was designed to crush 10,000 tons of coal per hour; and

WHEREAS, his original "pocket tooth" design was revolutionary and continues to be central to Gundlach's technology. Theodore Jacob Gundlach's unwavering commitment to innovation and user-friendly designs established the company's reputation and placed it at the forefront of the industry, earning him the title "The Henry Ford of the Coal Crusher;" and

WHEREAS, TerraSource Global invites all residents of Belleville to participate in their Gundlach Centennial Celebration.

Pride in the Past . . . Promise for the Future
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Patty Gregory, Mayor of the City of Belleville, Illinois, do hereby proclaim October 14, 2023, as the **Gundlach Centennial Celebration**. Here's to 100 years of excellence, and to the next century of even greater accomplishments!

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Belleville to be affixed, this 14th day of October, 2023.

Patty Gregory

Patty Gregory, Mayor

Dated this 14th day of October, 2023