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Keep on trucking

Melvindale firm celebrates 75th anniversary

By Mike Schaffer , The News-Herald



MELVINDALE — Evans Distribution Systems hosted a special celebration last month to recognize the company's 75th anniversary and a milestone few logistics companies in the world have achieved — 7.5 million truckloads of goods delivered for customers.

Evans' associates, customers, local government representatives and Downriver business officials attended a Sept. 9 event that

highlighted the fourth-generation, family-owned company's history in southeastern Michigan supporting the automotive, beverage and chemical industries.

"Our ability to flourish during the past 75 years is a direct result of our associates' hard work and the loyalty of our customers," President John A. Evans said.

"As with previous eras, Evans' business has evolved significantly in recent years to meet the increasingly demanding requirements of global customers.

"We will continue to exceed their expectations as a strategic logistics partner."

Evans Distribution Services, with headquarters in Melvindale, was founded in 1929 as Central Detroit Warehouse Co.

It has evolved into a full-service warehousing, packaging and transportation third-party logistics provider serving the automotive, manufacturing, beverage and chemical industries.

Evans' affiliate companies include Central Detroit Warehouse, Progressive Distribution Centers, Merchants' Forwarding Co., Maverig Freight Inc., Evans Logistics and Alden Logistics.

Several of Evans facilities are ISO 9001:2000 certified. The company employs more than 200 associates, the majority of them located in Michigan. Evans also operates full-service facilities in Suffolk, Va., and Devens, Mass.

This summer, Evans was named one of the country's Top 100 Third-Party Logistics providers of transportation and warehousing services for the second consecutive year by Inbound Logistics magazine, a leading industry publication.

"When my great grandfather, Wellington Evans, started the company 75 years ago, he focused his attention on building close relationships with customers," Chairman John W. Evans. "Obviously, technology has greatly impacted our business and we are working on a global scale now, but this approach to success still rings true.

"A customer's satisfaction is often based in large part on your relationship — the stronger the better."

Evans' success at building such customer relationships is illustrated by the longevity of its key customer relationships.

Seagram Americas/Diageo, the world's largest manufacturer and marketer of premium adult beverages, has worked with Evans for 28 years.

Automaker Ford Motor Co. has been an Evans customer for more than 20 years, and DaimlerChrysler, for 15 years.

"Everyone at Diageo appreciates the Evans team's hard work and continuous support," said Laurent Hamel, Diageo procurement specialist.

"We've had many opportunities to see them in action and they have always come through and made things happen, through thick and thin, to get the job done."

EVANS DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS

HEADQUARTERS: 18765 Seaway Drive, Melvindale, Mich.

TYPE OF BUSINESS: Full-service warehousing, packaging and transportation third-party logistics provider.

ESTABLISHED: 1929

EMPLOYEES: 200

INFO: For more information, call 1-313-388-3200 or visit www.evansdist.com.