



2017 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 77

October 2, 2017 - Introduced by Representatives HINTZ, SCHRAA, ROHRKASTE, KITCHENS, SPREITZER, VRUWINK, C. TAYLOR, HEBL, STEFFEN, BALLWEG, CROWLEY, CONSIDINE, BROSTOFF, HORLACHER, MURSAU, BERCEAU, HESSELBEIN, FIELDS, KESSLER, TITTL, SUBECK, SPIROS, TUSLER, KNODL, GENRICH, VORPAGEL, ZEPNICK and E. BROOKS, cosponsored by Senators FEYEN, LASEE, MARKLEIN, OLSEN, L. TAYLOR, ROTH, WANGGAARD, VUKMIR and RINGHAND. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1 **Relating to:** commending Oshkosh Corporation on its 100th anniversary.

2 Whereas, in 1916, William R. Besserdich and Bernhard A. Mosling applied for
3 and received two patents designed to improve four-wheel drive capabilities; the first
4 patented component, a transfer case, transferred power from the front axle to the
5 rear, and the second component improved the steering and drive capacity of the front
6 axle; and

7 Whereas, Besserdich and Mosling did not envision themselves as
8 manufacturers and originally offered their design innovations to several automobile
9 manufacturers to incorporate onto their cars or trucks; and

10 Whereas, finding no interest in their patents and their strong belief in these
11 designs, Besserdich and Mosling started their own manufacturing business in 1917;
12 and

13 Whereas, on May 1, 1917, the Wisconsin Duplex Auto Company was founded
14 in Clintonville, Wisconsin, and built its first four-wheel drive truck, known today as
15 Old Betsy, a 4-cylinder, 3-speed, 3,000-pound payload truck; and

1 Whereas, their 4-wheel drive technology soon gained the attention of investors,
2 and since many of these investors were located in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, the company
3 moved there in 1918 and became Oshkosh Motor Truck Manufacturing Company;
4 and

5 Whereas, in 1920, the Oshkosh Truck Model A became the first production
6 series of Oshkosh Motor Truck Manufacturing Company; and

7 Whereas, in the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s, Oshkosh expanded its products
8 beyond the municipal and snowplow markets with industrial utility trucks; the
9 W-Series trucks, which delivered improved power, increased payload capacity and
10 better ride quality, and were the first Oshkosh trucks to be used by the U.S. military;
11 and

12 Whereas, Wisconsin Duplex Auto grew and evolved over the years through 15
13 significant acquisitions to form today's Oshkosh Corporation; and

14 Whereas, on this 100th anniversary, Oshkosh Corporation is the leading
15 designer, manufacturer, and marketer of a broad range of access equipment,
16 specialty military, fire and emergency, and commercial vehicles and vehicle bodies;
17 and

18 Whereas, Oshkosh Corporation has approximately 15,300 employees around
19 the globe and manufactures vehicles and vehicle bodies at 26 manufacturing
20 facilities in seven countries; and

21 Whereas, over 2,500 employees are represented by the United Auto Workers,
22 the Boilermakers, and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters unions; and

23 Whereas, Oshkosh Corporation has become one of the largest manufacturers
24 in Wisconsin, providing significant economic impact throughout the state with
25 strong relationships and partnerships in their community; and

1 Whereas, Oshkosh Corporation is mindful of the importance and contributions
2 of its vast network of dedicated Wisconsin suppliers, many of which are small
3 businesses; and

4 Whereas, Oshkosh Corporation is a global industry whose products are valued
5 worldwide by our defense forces, rental companies, concrete placement and refuse
6 businesses, fire and emergency departments, and municipal and airport services,
7 where high quality, superior performance, rugged reliability, and long-term value
8 are paramount; now, therefore, be it

9 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the Wisconsin
10 Legislature honors and congratulates Oshkosh Corporation and its employees for
11 100 years of making a difference in people's lives.

12

(END)