



**State of Wisconsin  
2009 - 2010 LEGISLATURE**

LRB-3026/1  
TKK&CTS:nwn:ph

## **2009 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 67**

August 12, 2009 – Introduced by Representatives TOWNSEND and SPANBAUER, cosponsored by Senator HOPPER. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1       **Relating to:** commending MAG Giddings and Lewis on its sesquicentennial.

2           Whereas, the company now known as MAG Giddings & Lewis was founded in  
3       1859 in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, as a small machine shop that produced parts and  
4       provided repairs for Wisconsin's sawmills and gristmills; and

5           Whereas, over time, the business expanded its shop to include a gray iron  
6       foundry, the first in Wisconsin, and became the Novelty Iron Works, with a continued  
7       emphasis on sawmill machinery; and

8           Whereas, in the 1870s and 1880s, the Novelty Iron Works continued its  
9       expansion into manufacturing industrial steam engines for clients across the United  
10      States; and

11          Whereas, in the 1870s and 1880s, changes in ownership brought the Novelty  
12      Iron Works under a partnership of Colonel C. H. DeGroat, George Giddings, and O.  
13      F. Lewis, leading to a new name, DeGroat, Giddings & Lewis; and

Whereas, in 1895, DeGroat sold his interest in the partnership to Giddings and Lewis, and the company was incorporated as the Giddings & Lewis Manufacturing Company, commonly known as Giddings & Lewis; and

Whereas, as Wisconsin's lumber industry began to decline in the late 1890s and early 1900s, Giddings & Lewis began to concentrate on manufacturing machine tools, including lathes, gear cutting equipment, shapers, planers, drills, grinders, and even shell lathes for the British Ministry of Munitions during World War I; and

Whereas, Giddings & Lewis entered into a sweeping modernization program during the 1920s and 1930s, went public in 1934, and, during World War II, operated an emergency plant facility under the Department of War; and

Whereas, in 1955, Giddings & Lewis built and demonstrated the first numerical control machine tool, the result of a joint research venture with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology that also produced other numerical control devices; and

Whereas, in 2005, MAG Industrial Automation Systems purchased Giddings & Lewis, and Giddings & Lewis is now MAG Giddings & Lewis; and

Whereas, MAG Giddings & Lewis is celebrating 150 years as an important industrial manufacturer and employer in the Fond du Lac area; now, therefore, be it

***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the members of the Wisconsin legislature congratulate MAG Giddings & Lewis on its sesquicentennial.

(END)