**BUSINESS SPEECH**

**FOR**

**DENNIS BRIGGS**

Hi everyone! It’s great to be here to celebrate this special milestone with all of you. Although most of us usually spend most of the work day together at the office, having an opportunity like this one.... to commemorate the **THIRTIETH** anniversary of a company that serves all of us and our community, and that we all work so hard as a team to sustain and grow, is a **REAL** privilege. Foundations of this company have been solidified in the past thirty years, and thanks to the guidance, wisdom, and stewardship of its founder and our leader, Miller Fire Protection is a thriving, important business that has served and provided more than a generation’s worth of safety, awareness, and best practices for so many people. Of course, none of this would have been possible without our “fearless leader,” Peter Miller.

A lot has happened in the past three decades.... the world has changed. Technology has advanced, but the basic needs of our society remain rooted in the principles that inspired the founding of this company. Everyone deserves to feel safe and secure within their home, work, school, and professional environments. That’s the basic mission that inspired the start of this company, and through the years, we’ve all learned what it means to serve and to innovate.... to lead and to be part of a team, all thanks to Peter. He has always found a way to reach beyond his own limits to guide us and show us the way.....

When I say that Peter stretches beyond his limits, I really **MEAN IT**. He does it in surprising and sometimes unimaginable ways. I will never forget one of the first meetings I attended as a novice employee here at Miller Fire Protection. Peter wanted to get his point across to all of us, and so he bravely climbed on top of a stack of precariously piled pallets. That might not have been the most secure of situations.... in fact he nearly fell off.... graceful? Maybe not so much.... (**Wait for the laugh**)... but there was so much more to learn from that meeting besides the content of Peter’s announcement. Why did that incident stay with me for almost \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years? Because he showed us he was unafraid of heights? Because he demonstrated why it was a good thing he chose fire protection over a career in gymnastics??? (**Wait for the laugh**). No.... not that either.... it’s because even in that moment, Peter showed us his commitment to lead.... his determination to get his message heard.... and his defiance of environmental limitations. It turns out that wasn’t the only time he “faced the mountain of pallets...” he did it again and still does... with purpose and well disguised grace... but filled with intention to unify our team in order to fulfill our company’s mandate.

Peter has taught me so much throughout my career, and funny.... so much of it centers on balance. Every day, each one of us climbs a symbolic pile of precariously stacked pallets and it is up to us, in our own way, to navigate our challenges... to get the job done... to find the balance in our lives while serving others and caring for ourselves and our families and friends. Peter has taught all of us about the fire protection industry. He’s led by example in showing us how to handle difficult situations and sometimes seemingly impossible challenges... but the one thing Peter has **REALLY** taught us... the thing that **REALLY** inspires me, is his concern about our collective and individual well being. While Peter is completely dedicated to the continued success of this company, he also knows the importance of living a fulfilled and well rounded life. One of the most important lessons I’ve learned in my tenure here at Miller Fire Protection is that we do important work, but nothing is as important as finding time to be with my wife, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and my son, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Peter finds a way to discover equilibrium on a stack of pallets and he also finds a way to guide each one of us to find our own balance.

Peter, it’s been \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years since I joined this company. That’s ten years of learning, growing, educating, and making our community a safer place in which to live well rounded and fulfilled lives. I’m thankful to have grown from fled

In employee to Operations Manager and every day, I am guided by your strength and leadership. (**Name your wife**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I already so thankful for the opportunities we’ve had thanks to being a part of the Miller Fire Protection clan (**would you prefer to say “family?”**). It’s been a privilege to have been a part of the “First Thirty” and I look forward to many more years of learning from the “Master” and leading in turn. Thank you for all that you do... thank you for showing us that being dedicated to hard work, getting the job done... whatever that might involve, and being a part of a bigger, more important purpose can provide partnership, growth, and balance to life.

Here’s to the continued success and future generations of Miller Fire Protection!!! Congratulations and most of all, **THANK YOU!!**