Press Release: Bard Manufacturing Company Celebrates 100 Years

In an industry where consolidation and turnover are commonplace, Bard Manufacturing Company is proud to be celebrating its 100th anniversary as a 4th generation family owned manufacturer of heating and cooling products.

Since Dale Bard founded the company in 1914 in his hometown of Bryan, Ohio, Bard Manufacturing has grown from a small heating and plumbing contracting business into a world-wide supplier of wall-mounted heating and cooling equipment to the classroom, telecommunications, modular building and light commercial markets.

“Today Bard represents the ethics of a century gone-by,” explains Paul Quigley, Vice President of Sales and Marketing, “and is poised with the resolve and fortitude that will carry the company forward for many more generations.”

Current fourth generation family members involved in the management of the business include Bill Steel, President and Chief Executive Officer, Scott Bard, Vice President of Sales Administration and Pam Bard Steel, Marketing Communications and President of the Bard Family Foundation. They continue to build on the legacy of success started by Dale, and extended under the second generation leadership of Randolph Bard and the third generation leadership of Richard and Jim Bard.

No major milestone like a centennial anniversary is achieved without a colorful history. Dale Bard discovered his entrepreneurial spirit by patenting his first oil furnace design in the 1930's. Like many manufacturers in the early 1940's, Bard Manufacturing retooled its production capabilities to aid the war effort, manufacturing specialty items like steel bullets, tank parts and B-29 Bomber controls. In 1944, a fire completely destroyed the Bard facility while Dale was in a coma suffering from a debilitating stroke. The company founder ultimately passed away never knowing that his factory had been burned to the ground.

Randolph Bard’s decision to rebuild his father’s company after the fire became the first of many strategic decisions that would lead Bard Manufacturing into the future. Introducing its first air conditioner in 1961, engineers would soon expand the offering to include wall-mount air conditioners and heat pumps, which continues to represent the company’s primary product offering to this day. A full line of residential products would continue to be offered until the late 1990’s, when the company made the strategic decision to exit the general residential market and focus resources on its growing commercial markets.

To celebrate its centennial, Bard Manufacturing selected a two word 100th anniversary theme dedicated to all those who have been a part of this significant milestone. “With You” reflects the company’s appreciation for its loyal distributors that make sure customers have Bard products where and when they need it, the dedicated suppliers who jump through hoops to help the company meet production deadlines, and the communities that have supported its three production facilities over the years.

“Of course, the most important ‘you’ of the ‘With You’ theme is dedicated to our employees that go about their day-to-day business as if their family name is on the building,” insists
Mr. Steel. “The term ‘family business’ is often a misnomer, and there would be no Bard Manufacturing today if it weren’t for the dedicated effort, insight and leadership of all our non-family employees.”

Community stewardship is as important to Bard Manufacturing as the company’s annual sales. Bard takes pride in employees that not only produce a high quality product, but are very active in supporting local philanthropic projects. On a corporate level, the Bard Manufacturing Company and the Bard Family Foundation have provided ongoing support for college scholarships, community improvement projects, Christian faith-based programs and local fine arts organizations for as long as community friends can remember.

To celebrate the milestone anniversary and continue its tradition of giving back to the community Bard Manufacturing has called home for 100 years, the company is sponsoring several special 100th anniversary celebration events. In January, the company sponsored a benefit concert with Grammy award winning contemporary Christian music artist Laura Story where all ticket proceeds were donated to the local Bryan Outreach Food Pantry. Over the summer, the company is the primary corporate sponsor for a Bryan Habitat For Humanity home build and will be hosting a Samaritan’s Feet ministry benefit to provide local school children in need with new shoes. Finally, the Bard family will be breaking ground on the construction of the Bard Centennial Fountain on the Bryan courthouse square in August with a dedication event scheduled once the fountain is completed towards the end of September.

As Phil Garrett, a long time sales associate, explains, “Bard represents a rare way of doing business that can be wrapped up in one word: Integrity.”

Even as Bard Manufacturing has grown into three state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities in Ohio, Georgia and Saltillo, Mexico, the company remains headquartered in the same hometown where it all started in 1914. The blending of time honored family principles with advanced engineering and technology has proven a winning formula for Bard Manufacturing and its customers throughout the world.

To find out more about Bard Manufacturing’s centennial celebration and its commitment to providing quality climate control solutions, visit them at www.bardhvac.com.

Please direct questions regarding this press release to:
Pam Bard Steel
Bard Manufacturing Company
pam@bardhvac.com