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Northern Illinois Steel Supply Company & the Ruth Family Receive 2014 ExxonMobil Community Philanthropic Award

The 2014 ExxonMobil Community Philanthropic Award was presented to Northern Illinois Steel Supply Company & the Ruth family at Howl for the Parks on Saturday, January 25, a People for Channahon Parks Foundation event. The ExxonMobil Community Philanthropic Award recognizes individuals and businesses who donate their time, talents and treasures to improve the quality of life for their neighbors.

Northern Illinois Steel Supply Company (NIS) was founded in 1961 by J.P. (Pat) Ruth and Joseph J. Wallace in Joliet, Illinois. During the early years in the business Pat would drive around Illinois and Indiana in a flatbed truck with a variety of steel items. He spent long days and long nights stopping at all the small welding shops that at one time were scattered about the two states in almost every small town. He would sell what he had on the back of his truck and take orders for what the shop proprietors would need for his next trip through town. As the business continued to grow, his partner sold his share of the business to Pat in 1975. The company began construction of the current facility in 1979 and had a grand opening celebration in Channahon in March of 1980.

Pat's two sons Mike and Tim have worked in the business since their grade schools days doing miscellaneous odd jobs and learning the business from the ground up. They both came to work full time in 1982. Pat continued in the business until his retirement on July 3, 1992, one day before his 61st birthday. Although not active in the business, he stayed on as President until his death on October 3, 2006. Pat's strong work ethic continues on through his sons and on to the 3rd generation with the addition of Mike's son J.P. Ruth II and Tim's son T.J. Ruth Jr.

Since coming to Channahon NIS has made an impact on the community generously supporting many local organizations including the Channahon Park District, People for Channahon Parks Foundation, Channahon Fire Protection District, Three Rivers Festival and numerous youth organizations to name a few. NIS is also a major supporter of many community events and non-profit organizations in the greater Joliet area.

“Northern Illinois Steel Supply Company and the Ruth family are fitting examples of good corporate citizenship, and definitely deserving of the ExxonMobil Community Philanthropic Award”, said Mike Rittof, People for Channahon Parks Foundation President.

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