

U.S. textile industry, a vital national asset

It's hard to imagine what the nation's economy and people's lives would be like without a textile industry.

Americans are the world's largest consumers of textiles, which are an important part of our lives from dawn until dusk and from the cradle to the grave.

Textiles are the first thing to touch a new born baby's skin and from that point forward, they are a part of his or her daily life, as clothing and home furnishings, in the belts and tires that keep automobiles running and for countless industrial uses ranging from space ships to highway underlinings.

Medical science depends

on textiles for artificial arteries and filters for kidney dialysis machines and for bandages, gauze and hospital gowns.

Our armed forces have more than 10,000 textile products in their inventories, from simple uniforms to suits that protect soldiers in chemical or biological warfare. There are also tents, cots, parachutes, helicopter dust covers, rope netting, sand bags, duffel bags and gas masks.

To provide all of these products, the textile and clothing industry employs one in every 11 U.S. manufacturing workers, providing jobs for two million people

in all 50 states.

The economic impact of the textile complex, including the fiber and apparel industries, reaches far beyond its \$54 billion contribution to the nation's gross domestic product.

Textile manufacturers buy approximately \$40 billion worth of goods and services annually, including \$12 billion for man-made fibers, \$2.2 billion for chemicals, \$2 billion for gas and electricity, \$3 billion for wholesale and retail business services, \$1.3 billion for gasoline and oil, \$1 billion for transportation and warehousing and \$2.5 billion for services ranging

from janitors to computers.

The industry also contributes more than \$2.5 billion to the farm economy through its purchases of cotton and wool.

As a result of investments of some \$2 billion a year for the past 10 years, the United States has the most productive textile industry in the world, according to international consultants.

Textiles are among the nation's high-tech manufacturers, relying increasingly on a skilled work force that uses computers, lasers and robots to increase productivity and maintain quality control.

Thousands of textile industry employees have improved basic reading, writing and communications skills, earned their high school diplomas or started on the path to college under company-sponsored programs. The industry recognizes that to compete in a high-tech global economy, it must have a work force committed to excellence.

Textile Week in North Carolina 1993 By the Governor of the State of North Carolina A Proclamation

The more than 300,000 women and men who work in the fiber, textile and apparel industries in North Carolina join their employers in a commitment to protecting the environment.

These North Carolina manufacturers continue to lead the way in product innovation, quality and environmental consciousness as they incorporate processes that produce little or no pollution and find new ways to reduce and even eliminate the use of harmful chemicals.

Their investment in environmental controls ensures that textile by-products reduce or eliminate contamination of the air, water or land. Their waste management programs ensure that textile by-products are reduced, reused, and recycled. As corporations, teams and individuals, the people of textiles engage in projects that reflect their stewardships of the environment.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JAMES B. HUNT JR., Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim October 17 through October 24, 1993, as "Textile Week" in North Carolina and urge our citizens to recognize the men and women of these industries for their contributions to our state and nation.

James B. Hunt Jr.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this seventeenth day of September in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and seventeenth.

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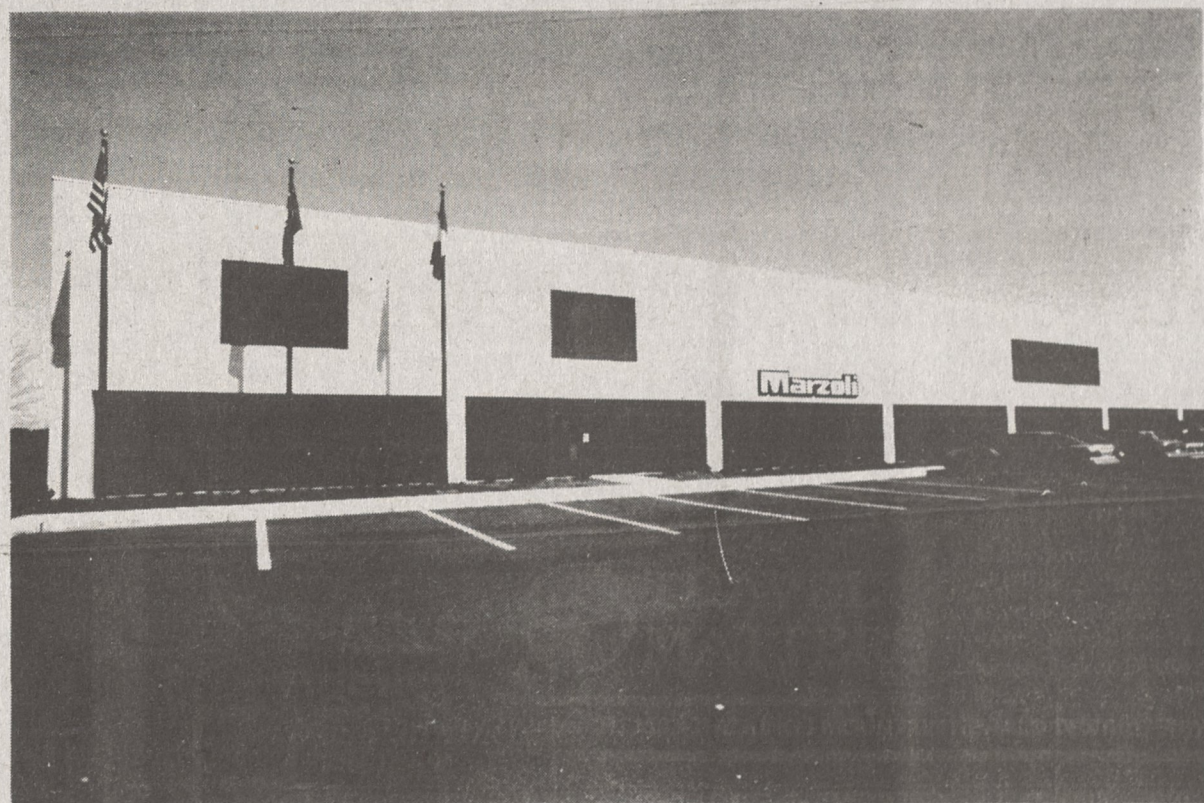
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